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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

Military

Cadet slaying: A former U.S. Naval Academy midshipman serving a life sentence for her role in a teenager's slaying amid a love triangle wants a new trial, her attorney says.

Diane Zamora's attorney, David Richards, said Tarrant County, Texas, prosecutors withheld crucial evidence supporting Zamora's innocence. Zamora contended that she did not help her boyfriend kill high school classmate Adrienne Jones, 16, almost a decade ago.

Prosecutors said Zamora wanted Jones dead out of jealousy because she thought her boyfriend had had sex with the Mansfield High School sophomore.

World

N. Korean asylum bids: South Korean lawmakers are considering whether to offer financial assistance to North Koreans who seek asylum in other countries.

The proposal in the National Assembly is based on a similar U.S. policy President Bush signed into law in the fall, according to Gye Min-suk, an aide for Rep. Hwang Woo-yea, the bill's sponsor.

The proposal would put up to \$7.7 million toward feeding and housing the refugees each year, Gye said.

Opium battle: Facing opposition from Afghan President Hamid Karzai, the United States has set aside plans to use spray planes to fumigate opium crops in Afghanistan, the world's largest drug producing country.

Karzai's opposition to spraying has frustrated some U.S. officials who doubt that the vast amount of opium produced in Afghanistan can be significantly reduced without spraying. Opium is the raw material for heroin. The United Nations says Afghanistan's drug trade has funded terrorists.

Karzai believes aerial spraying could harm innocent villagers.

States

Church abuse scandal: Prosecutors say news reports about the clergy sex abuse scandal plaguing the Boston Archdiocese triggered a man's memory of being molested by a parish priest in the 1980s.

But a lawyer for priest Paul Shanley, defrocked by the Vatican last year, questioned the timing and validity of those memories and said the defense would call expert witnesses to debunk the science behind so-



GREG TYLER/Stars and Stripes

Cooking for a cause: Chief Petty Officer Ray Riddley, chairman of the Sasebo Naval Base Black History Month committee, standing at right, joined other committee members, including grill aficionado Chief Petty Officer Wendell James, shown holding tongs behind the grill, and braved the elements Tuesday to cook up and sell sausages, chicken and pork. The profits will help fund Black History Month activities on base throughout February.

called remembered memories.

The alleged victim is expected to take the stand Wednesday in the second day of Shanley's trial on child rape charges.

NIH whistleblower: A government scientist who blew the whistle on shoddy research had been recommended for a cash bonus, but his bosses pulled it back and tried to fire him after the scientist raised allegations of interference with his safety work, memos show.

"This is going to take some work," National Institutes of Health AIDS Division Director Dr. Edmund Tramont wrote Feb. 23, 2004, in an e-mail that laid out plans to fire whistleblower Dr. Jonathan Fishbein.

Ground Zero hazard: High levels of asbestos, lead and other contaminants have been found in a vacant skyscraper badly damaged during the 2001 terror attacks in New York, potentially complicating the rebuilding of Ground Zero.

A consultant to the Lower Manhattan Development Corp. revealed the findings at a public hearing where neighbors, environ-

mental advocates and union representatives talked about their concerns over plans to dismantle the 40-story Deutsche Bank building.

Big Dig investigation: An investigation of tunnel leaks in the Big Dig highway project in Boston was repeatedly hindered by officials of the top contractor and the state agency that manages it, says the retired judge who led the probe.

State officials had too close a relationship with the private contractor, said retired probate court Judge Edward M. Ginsburg. "They were all married to each other," he told The Boston Globe.

Philadelphia corruption case: The mayor's top political aide testified that part of his job was to make sure "supporters of the mayor's vision" were rewarded with city contracts — but later denied money changed hands.

When pressed by prosecutors, George Burrell denied the administration of Mayor John F. Street was trading contracts for campaign contributions.

Stories from staff and wire reports



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31 troops killed in 'discouraging' day

31 die in copter crash; 6 others die in ambushes

BY JASON KEYSER
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A U.S. helicopter crashed early Wednesday in a desert sandstorm, killing the 30 Marines and one sailor aboard, and six other troops were killed by insurgent ambushes in the heaviest single-day loss of life for the United States since the Iraq war began.

Four days before the country's crucial elections, militants set off at least eight car bombings that killed 13 people and injured another 40, including 11 Americans. The guerrillas also carried out a string of attacks on schools nationwide against schools that will serve as polling centers.

In Washington, President Bush asked Americans to remain committed to the Iraq effort, despite what he called a "very discouraging" day when the U.S. death toll for the war rose above 1,400.

"I feel a value life and we weep and mourn when soldiers lose their life," the president said. "But it is the long-term objective that is vital, and that is to spread freedom."

While a group calling itself al-Qaida in Iraq warned people to stay away from the polls — saying they would only have themselves to blame if they are hurt in attacks — Bush called on Iraqis to "defy the terrorists" and cast ballots in the Sunday election.

A Bush administration official said the cause of Wednesday's crash was not immediately known but that there was bad weather at the time. An Accuweather map of Iraq showed sandstorms Wednesday in the western region of Iraq, near the Jordanian border where the crash took place.

The CH-53 Sea Stallion, with a crew from the 3rd Marine Air-



An Iraqi family watches U.S. soldiers search homes Wednesday on a mission preparing for upcoming elections in Mosul, Iraq. U.S. and Iraqi officials fear a spike in bloodshed and have announced massive security measures to protect voters from possible insurgent attacks during the elections.

craft Wing, was ferrying personnel from the 1st Marine Division when it went down about 1:20 a.m. near the town of Rutbah, about 220 miles west of Baghdad in Anbar province, while conducting security operations, the military said in a statement.

A search and rescue team was sent to the site, and an investigation of the cause was under way. The victims were 30 Marines and one sailor, said Lt. Gen. John Sattler, the top Marine commander in Iraq — the most American servicemembers to die in a single incident in Iraq. Overall, it was the deadliest day for U.S. forces since the March 2003 invasion almost two years ago.

Four other U.S. Marines were killed in fighting in Anbar province, the military said in a statement.

A reporter embedded with the troops, Jim Dolan, WABC, said the deaths came when insurgents ambushed a Marine convoy leaving the town of Haditha, northwest of Baghdad, hitting a vehicle with a rocket-propelled grenade.

Also Wednesday, insurgents attacked a U.S. Army patrol in Dulayyah, 50 miles north of Baghdad, killing one soldier and wounding two others, the U.S. command said. Another U.S. soldier died and two others were wounded in a roadside bombing in the capital, the U.S. command said.

With the helicopter crash and other deaths, at least 1,409 U.S. military members have died in Iraq, according to an Associated Press count.

The previous single deadliest incident for U.S. troops was also a helicopter crash: a November

2004 collision of two Black Hawk helicopters that killed 17.

Previously, the most Americans killed in one day came on the invasion's third day — March 23, 2003 — when 28 troops were killed during the U.S. military's drive to take Baghdad and topple Saddam Hussein.

Last month, a suicide bomb exploded at a mess tent in a base near Mosul, killing 22 people including 14 U.S. soldiers and three American contractors.

The U.S. military has lost at least 33 helicopters since the start of the war, including at least 20 brought down by hostile fire, according to a study by the Brookings Institute.

Deadliest days

■ **Jan. 26:** U.S. military transport helicopter crashes in bad weather in Iraq's western desert, killing 30 Marines and one sailor. In addition, insurgents kill five other American troops.

■ **March 23, 2003:** 28 American troops killed, including 11 in ambush of 50th Maintenance Company convoy in Nasiriyah in which Army Pvt. Jessica Lynch and six others were captured.

■ **Nov. 15, 2003:** Two Black Hawk helicopters collide and crash in Mosul, apparently hit by ground fire, killing 17 American troops.

■ **Nov. 2, 2003:** U.S. Chinook helicopter carrying troops heading for leave is struck by missile and crashes west of Baghdad, killing 16 soldiers, wounding more than 20.

■ **Dec. 21, 2004:** A suicide bomb attack at a mess tent in a base near Mosul kills 22 people including 14 U.S. soldiers.

■ **April 6, 2004:** In Ramadi, 12 Marines' battling insurgents are killed in an ambush.

■ **April 3, 2003:** Eleven soldiers killed in combat or die in the line of duty. In total, 10 American soldiers died.

■ **Jan. 8, 2004:** Black Hawk medevac helicopter apparently shot down, crashes near Fallujah killing all nine soldiers aboard.

■ **Nov. 7, 2003:** Black Hawk helicopter apparently downed by rocket-propelled grenade, killing six soldiers.

— The Associated Press

Fatal helicopter crashes in Iraq war

The Associated Press

■ **Jan. 26:** A CH-53 Super Stallion transport helicopter crashed in bad weather in western Iraq, killing 30 Marines and one sailor aboard.

■ **Dec. 10, 2004:** An AH-64 Apache attack helicopter collided with a UH-60 Black Hawk that was on the ground at an air base in Mosul, killing two U.S. soldiers and injuring four.

■ **Oct. 16, 2004:** Two OH-58 Kiowa helicopters crashed in southwest Baghdad, killing two U.S. soldiers. It was unclear whether hostile fire brought the aircraft down.

■ **April 11, 2004:** Gunmen shot down an Apache helicopter in western Baghdad, killing its two crew members.

■ **Feb. 25, 2004:** A Kiowa crashed in a river west of Baghdad, killing the two crewmen-

bers on board. A witness said a missile hit one of two helicopters in the area.

■ **Jan. 23, 2004:** A Kiowa crashed near the northern town of Qayyarah, killing the two pilots. The cause of the crash was unclear.

■ **Jan. 8, 2004:** A Black Hawk medevac helicopter crashed near Fallujah, killing all nine soldiers on board. A witness said a rocket hit the tail.

■ **Jan. 2, 2004:** A Kiowa was shot down near Fallujah, killing its pilot and wounding another soldier.

■ **Nov. 15, 2003:** Two Black Hawks crashed in Mosul, killing 17 soldiers and injuring five. The military said the helicopters collided during a likely rocket-propelled grenade attack.

■ **Nov. 7, 2003:** A Black Hawk was downed near Tikrit, apparent-

ly by a rocket-propelled grenade, killing all six on board.

■ **Nov. 2, 2003:** A Chinook transport helicopter was shot down near Fallujah, killing 16 and injuring 26. The military believed a SA-7 shoulder-fired missile struck an engine.

■ **May 19, 2003:** A CH-46 Sea Knight transport helicopter crashed shortly after takeoff in the Shat al-Hillah Canal in Hillah, about 60 miles south of Baghdad, killing four Marines. Another Marine drowned trying to rescue them. The crash appeared to be accidental.

■ **May 9, 2003:** A Black Hawk crashed near Samarra, killing three soldiers, in an apparent accident.

■ **March 20, 2003:** A Sea Knight crashed in Kuwait, about nine miles from the Iraq border, killing eight British troops and four U.S. Marines. No hostile fire was reported in the area.

'Too much to comprehend'

By MICHELLE MORGANTE
The Associated Press

OCEANSIDE, Calif. — This seaside military town reacted with grief and resolve Wednesday at the news that 31 troops were killed when a transport helicopter crashed in the deadliest single incident yet for U.S. forces in Iraq.

"It's terrible, but it comes with the territory," said Carl Dreiblebs, 52, an Oceanside native who served in the Navy and said members of his family have fought in every U.S. war since the American Revolution.

"I'm afraid that when people hear this, their inclinations will be to retreat. But I say charge," Dreiblebs said.

The victims were members of the 1st Marine Division — based at Camp Pendleton, near Oceanside — and the 3rd Marine Air Wing, based at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in San Diego. Further details were withheld pending notification of families.

Ambler Warlock, 31, a former

Marine whose husband is a Marine pilot stationed at Camp Pendleton, said she was stunned when she heard about the crash on television.

"You hear about people dying every day in ones and twos," she said. "But 31 is just too much to comprehend."

She sought solace at the beach with her 5-month-old daughter Heidi and a fellow Marine wife who cried at news of the deaths, even though she had confirmed her husband was OK in Iraq.

"You just know how every single woman sitting in her home feels, whether it's going to be yours or someone you know," Warlock said. "It doesn't matter who it is. It's a bad day for everybody."

Larry Hughes, 58, a former Pendleton Marine, has a nephew serving in the National Guard in Iraq. News of such tragedies always hits him hard.

"The fact it's an accident doesn't make any difference," he said. "When they go over there, they're living on a knife line. That's the price of freedom."

Pentagon rethinking focus on conventional warfare

Proposal shifts strategy toward insurgencies, terrorists

BY BRADLEY GRAHAM
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon has drafted terms for an ambitious reshaping of U.S. forces that would put less emphasis on waging conventional warfare and more on dealing with insurgencies, terrorist networks, failed states and other nontraditional threats facing the military, according to defense officials and others familiar with the confidential planning.

This proposed shift in strategic focus stems partly from a recognition that U.S. forces were inadequately prepared for the insurgency in Iraq and the wider hunt for terrorists around the world.

But officials said it also grows out of a heightened perception of other potential threats.

The new thinking has emerged in a classified document being readied for Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's signature by the Pentagon's policy branch in coordination with the Joint Chiefs of Staff and service representatives. The document, called the "Terms of Reference," sets the framework for the Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR), which Congress has mandated to compel a look at U.S. military strategy at the start of each presidential term.

By giving a higher priority to a larger set of possible security challenges, the initiative goes beyond notions of military transformation the Bush administration has previously touted, the officials said. But the results of the Pentagon's planning still are ahead of what programs to favor and which to cut, the ultimate result is far from certain.

This intensified push for change comes at a time when the Iraq conflict and war on terrorism have badly taxed the U.S. military, especially the Army,

requiring more forces and longer deployments than anticipated and highlighting shortages in U.S. capabilities. Recent experience has shown that while the Pentagon remains flush with planes, ships and precision-guided munitions — all useful in large conventional battles — it is desperately short of other kinds of troops, weapons and specialized skills important in unconventional conflicts and postwar reconstruction.

"The traditional focus was on conventional military threats," Douglas Feith, the Pentagon's policy chief, said in an interview.

"We're now talking about things much broader than that."

This evolution in strategy could have significant budgetary consequences, officials said. It would divert some resources from major weapons programs, such as tactical fighter jets and aircraft carriers, and toward more ground troops — or a different mix of troops favoring specialized areas such as intelligence gathering, foreign-language skills and civil affairs work. It also would mean greater investment in new technologies, such as improved drone aircraft, computer network defenses, and measures for countering biological or chemical attacks, officials said.

Just how much change will ensue is difficult to predict. Facing a huge federal budget deficit and mounting war costs in Iraq, Pentagon officials could feel greater pressure to make hard choices that they did during President Bush's first term. Even so, history has shown that military, business and political groups with vested interests in existing programs have often frustrated attempts at sweeping change.

More U.S. troops to help train Iraqi forces

BY PAULINE JELINEK
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. commanders are devising a plan for as many as 10,000 soldiers and Marines to accompany Iraqi units as advisers and trainers, a substantial increase from the few thousand doing such work now, defense officials say.

The theory is that after Sunday's election some U.S. troops will begin focusing less on directly fighting insurgents and more on training Iraqi forces to do it themselves.

This latest proposal to accelerate the troubled training program comes amid rising calls in Washington for the Bush administration to start working on plans for a phased withdrawal of troops from Iraq. There also is concern that U.S. offensive operations are increasing anger among Iraqis.

Interim Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi said Tuesday it was too soon to talk about a pullout, adding that U.S. troops could not leave until Iraq builds up its security forces. "Setting final dates will be futile and dangerous," he said in Baghdad.

Indeed, the Army disclosed that it was planning to keep troop levels in Iraq at the current level of roughly 120,000 for another two years.

That could change as security gets better or worse, Lt. Gen. James J. Lovelace Jr. told reporters Monday, but official plan-

ning is for little change in numbers beyond 2006.

Advisers in the expanded training plan would come from U.S. units already in Iraq, where some U.S. teams already are working with Iraqi units, doing joint patrols and fighting side by side.

Commanders want to expand the program countrywide and have talked about several possible numbers, including a 10,000-man total.

No decision had been announced as of Tuesday. But the idea is to make training the No. 1 priority of U.S. forces in Iraq and gradually pull Iraqis out front in the fight, one senior official said on condition of anonymity. He suggested that American forces may be nearing the point at which they will be gaining diminishing returns on their combat operations.

Counting all the military services, the United States has 150,000 troops in Iraq, spends more than \$1 billion a week and is continually killing and capturing suspected insurgents.

Still, the level of insurgent activity is about the same as it was six months ago, U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte said Sunday.

A statement from coalition forces in Baghdad last week said that enough progress had been made in training Iraqis that it "has prompted the coalition to focus in 2005 on transitioning the counter-insurgency fight" to local forces.

Officials have been working for months to accelerate training of Iraqi forces, which have suffered from desertions, low morale and leadership problems.

The Pentagon early this month sent retired Army Gen. Gary E. Luck to help the Iraqi government and U.S. commanders develop an accelerated program.

Some experts have suggested that new Iraqi officials elected Sunday may be more eager to ask the U.S. military to leave. But the United States hopes that an elected Iraqi government might command broader public support in the campaign against the insurgents and says any new government will know it needs continued coalition help.

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Supporters cruise through the streets of Baghdad on Wednesday with their vehicles covered by election posters of Shiite clerics. Iraqis are to choose a 275-member National Assembly and legislators in each of the 18 provinces in Sunday's balloting.

Iraq announces curfew, travel ban during vote

BY BASSEM MROUE
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The government announced Wednesday that it would ban travel between provinces and extend the hours of curfew as part of heightened security before the weekend national elections.

Interior Minister Falah al-Naqib said security in four tense provinces where it had been said that elections would be difficult has improved by 80 percent.

"We have been able to go past this," he added, apparently referring to the provinces of Baghdad, Anbar, Salaheddin and Ninevah.

Al-Naqib said the curfew would be extended from 7 p.m. until 6 a.m. starting Friday evening until Tuesday. The election of a 275-member National Assembly and provincial legislators is Sunday.

During that period, only vehicles with special permits would be allowed to travel between Iraq's 18 provinces.

The government has already announced plans to close Baghdad International Airport and seal the nation's borders during the election period. Weapons will

be banned, and al-Naqib announced rewards for Iraqis who turn in "terrorists."

He said police officers who detain or give information about terrorists or stop car bombs will get special rewards that could be as high as \$200,000.

Movement of all unauthorized vehicles will be barred on election day. Local police chiefs in different provinces have the right to extend the controls throughout the elections period. Gathering outside polling stations will be barred, the minister said.

Insurgents have been attacking places to be used as polling stations, election workers and candidates in their attempt to disrupt the elections. They have also warned people against voting, saying they will launch bloody attacks on elections day.

Al-Naqib said the government was determined to hold the election throughout the country — regardless of insurgent threats.

"We have full confidence that together, based on these measures, we will contribute to the success of the elections and to providing a secure atmosphere for a bigger participation by all the people of Iraq and all areas of our beloved country," al-Naqib said.



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Guam sub dry-docked to assess damage

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

A team of Navy submarine experts is preparing to assess the damaged USS San Francisco to determine whether the Guam-based warship can be repaired and return to sea.

The attack submarine entered dry dock Wednesday at the Guam Shipyard, U.S. Naval Base Guam officials announced in a news release.

The Navy certified the dry dock "Big Blue" for the one-time docking of the USS San Francisco so officials can assess the damage the submarine sustained when it ran aground Jan. 8.

The dock is capable of housing ships that weigh up to 40,000 long tons.

"It's an all-day evolution. It started about 3 a.m. and will be completed tonight," Naval Base Guam spokeswoman Lt. Arwen Consaul said Wednesday.

During the dry docking, the submarine is secured to wood blocks while water slowly is drained. Divers ensure the ship is secure, Consaul said.

A Navy team, led by Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Naval Sea Systems Command, is planning to conduct a full engineering assessment on the San Francisco.

"Until they put in dry dock, they can't get a full visual on the actual damage on the front of the submarine," Consaul said.

The group will determine whether the ship can be repaired and whether it's seaworthy for transport to a shipyard for those repairs, she said.

The San Francisco, a Los Angeles-class, fast attack submarine, is believed to have struck an uncharted underwater rock mass about 350 nautical miles south of Guam while on its way to Australia, according to news reports. Twenty-three sailors were reported injured in the incident, and



MARK ALLEN LEONISIO/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

The USS San Francisco is escorted into dry dock Wednesday in Apra Harbor, Guam. The submarine is entering dry dock for repairs after it ran aground 350 miles south of Guam on Jan. 8, killing one sailor.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Joseph Allen Ashley, a machinist's mate from Akron, Ohio, was killed.

Cmdr. Kevin Money, who commanded the USS San Francisco, was reassigned to Submarine Squadron 15 on Guam pending completion of the investigation into the crash. Cmdr. Andrew Hale, deputy commander of Submarine Squadron 15, has assumed command of the San Francisco.

For Guam's two other nuclear-powered

submarines, it's business as usual, Consaul said. "The City of Corpus Christi just came out of a maintenance period and the Houston did all of its maintenance prior to coming out to Guam," she said. "Both of them are at Polaris Point and supporting the San Francisco however they can."

The San Francisco has 19 officers and 126 enlisted sailors on board. The crew will continue to work on the submarine during its dry dock period, Consaul said.

E-mail Jennifer H. Svan at: svan@stripes.osd.mil

Uncharted sea mountain seen in 2004 images

Stars and Stripes

Satellite images of the area where a nuclear submarine grounded three weeks ago clearly show a wedge-shaped undersea mountain that stretches across more than a mile of a desolate expanse of the South Pacific, the New York Times reported in its Sunday editions.

Military officials have said the mountain, which rises within 100 feet of the surface, was not on the navigation charts that the Navy uses. One sailor was killed and 23 were injured when the submarine, the USS San Francisco, rammed the mountain at high speed on Jan. 8.

The satellite images, taken in 1999 and early 2004, suggest the mountain can be a part of a larger range of undersea volcanoes and reefs, the Times reported.

Besides relying on charts, submarines also receive fixes from navigation satellites and take soundings of water depths. Officials told the Times that the San Francisco's officers have said they took a sounding just four minutes before the crash, and it indicated that the vessel was still in 6,000 feet of water.

It is possible that the San Francisco could have detected the mountain if it had used its active sonar system. But since early in the Cold War, submarines have avoided using active sonar, which is believed to emit signals that give away their location. Even on training missions, they practice operating silently and rely on passive sonar systems that can detect only ships and other objects making noise.

USFJ to welcome new commander

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — U.S. Forces Japan and the 5th Air Force are about to get a new chief.

Lt. Gen. Thomas Waskow, who is retiring, will turn over the leadership posts to Lt. Gen. Bruce A. Wright during a change-of-command ceremony Feb. 9 at 10 a.m. in Yokota's Hangar 15. Adm. Thomas B. Fargo, the head of Pacific Command, is scheduled to preside over the event.

Wright previously was vice commander of the Air Combat Command at Langley Air Force Base, Va.

Waskow, a command pilot with more than 4,500 flying hours, including 904 in combat, became Japan's senior U.S. military representative in November 2001. He announced retirement plans in the fall but remained in place as Wright's nomination by President Bush made its way through the Senate.

Commissioned in 1970 after graduating from the Air Force Academy, Waskow served at overseas locations for 13 of the past 15 years, including stints in Okinawa, Belgium, Italy, Guam and Hawaii.

Zama High students face deadlines

A pair of deadlines are approaching for Zama High School students.

Applications and entries in the National Peace Essay Contest are due Feb. 2. Those interested in taking part should see Ms. Butler, an English teacher, or visit www.usaf.org.

Students who want to attend this year's United States Military Academy Summer Leaders Seminar must apply by April 18. Applications and additional information are available at <http://forms.admissions.usma.edu/AL>.

The cost is \$300, and students can attend one of two sessions. Contact Ms. Butler at DSN 263-5241 for more information.

From staff reports

Yokota completes readiness drill

BY VITTE LITTLE
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — With hundreds deployed to the Middle East and tsunami-stricken regions of South Asia, the 374th Airlift Wing resumed its practice routine this week, wrapping up the year's first Operational Readiness Exercise on Wednesday.

That regimen intensifies over the next several months as Yokota prepares for the Operational Readiness Inspection by Pacific Air Forces officials in February 2006. The next ORE unfolds March 13-18, with other sessions to follow in July, September and November.

"This particular ORE was to test the wing's ability to deploy airmen rapidly and in the correct manner," said Lt. Warren Comer, a 374th Airlift Wing spokesman. "Most of our OREs also test our ability to survive and operate but this one was shortened and more attention was paid to our ability to generate airlift."

He said the wing performed numerous functions during the exercise, delivering 152 troops and 109 tons of cargo under various scenarios drawn up by the wing's Inspector General of Force. At the same time, Wing received 466 personnel and 226 tons of supplies.

The base also rehearsed the first deployment of its surgical teams, or Expeditionary Medical Support units, Comer added. The Pacific's largest airlift hub moved 27 pallets of medical cargo and three pieces of rolling stock, which can be wheeled in and out of aircraft.

The ORE, which had been scheduled to start Monday, instead began a day earlier, with Yokota airmen being called in to work.

"The recall over the weekend was to test the wing's ability to report for duty during a time that's not normally expected," Comer said. "Yokota's airmen have to play as a team during the exercise, where every aspect of our particular jobs are tested by the wing's Inspector General office."

Throughout the week, he said, that inspection team laid out some specific tasks, examining the wing's ability to load aircraft in a timely manner and gauging its response to simulated vehicle accidents that required emergency treatment. A "protest" was staged outside the main gate Tuesday, followed by a mock news conference aimed at measuring the reaction of senior military officials.

Personnel also practiced emergency first aid in the workplace, with airmen "injured" by accidental falls and others simulating cuts from equipment.

Normally, the base's inspector general team issues an overall grade to the wing about two weeks after an exercise is completed. It's based on standard five-tier evaluation system used by the Air Force, with marks for outstanding, excellent, satisfactory, marginal and unsatisfactory performances.

Each unit also has an exercise evaluation team member who provides input used in a final report.

"We won't know the actual outcome of the exercise until that comes out," Comer said.

Col Doug Kreulen, the 374th Airlift Wing commander, praised the wing's ORE performance but said there are areas to address between now and the inspection in 2006.

"This is my third ORE at Yokota and we are significantly more prepared now to deploy combat-ready personnel and cargo than in the past," he said. "However, we do have lots of areas that we will need to improve to earn an 'Outstanding' from the PACAFIG."

But, he said, "we're blessed to have dedicated officers and noncommissioned officers that want to lead and want to excel. Through their dedication, we'll earn an outstanding."

E-mail Vitte Little at: little@stripes.osd.mil



GREG TYLER/Stars and Stripes

Yolanda Rayford, Pacific region assistant project manager for Native American Management Services Inc., guides a Sasebo Naval Base Fleet and Family Support Center class of servicemembers near retirement through the details of finding work after the military in a Transition Assistance Program session Wednesday afternoon. Topics covered included ability assessments, resume writing and interview skills.

Training broadens Sasebo retirement transition program

By GREG TYLER

Stars and Stripes

SASEBO NAVAL BASE, Japan — A Native American Management Services Inc. representative is here this week to train contractors in skills they need to help servicemembers who are nearing retirement and about to approach the civilian workforce.

Yolanda Rayford, a NAMS assistant project manager working from the Fleet and Family Support Center in Sasebo this week, travels to installations with transition assistance programs, offering regular training to people helping servicemembers re-enter the job market.

The Department of Labor saw a need for more counselors with enhanced levels of training, said FFSC officials, and hired NAMS. The firm provides contracted services to the federal government in addition to doing specialized work with Native American businesses.

From her main office at Yokota Air Base, Rayford recruits and trains contractors to help full-time TAP directors with monthly transition assistance classes and one-on-one counseling. This week in Sasebo, Rayford is training newly hired counselor Martha Byrd.

"I more than welcome the help," said Sasebo TAP director Rohana Hooper. "In fact, if the classes become large enough, we can now safely say we can add even more TAP sessions based on the need we perceive."

At Sasebo, Hooper explained, monthly TAP classes for retiring servicemembers cover issues including interviewing, assessing skills, writing and distributing resumes, continuing educational needs and how military experience translates into civilian workplace positions.

Each month, on days TAP instruction is scheduled, Byrd, a contractor, will assist Hooper, providing about twice the professional support FFSC's TAP could offer before.

Rayford said she hopes also to boost TAP support at other Pacific bases.

"I am currently looking to recruit facilitators at Yokota Air Base, Yokosuka Naval Base and Camp Humphreys in South Korea," she said. "These people work on a contract basis and it's an ideal position for family members of military."

Anyone interested in working as a transition assistance counselor contracted through NAMS should e-mail Rayford at rayford@namsinc.org.

The 30 or more servicemembers attending Wednesday's session at Sasebo seemed attentive; many took notes.

"What we as sailors are learning is extremely helpful," Petty Officer 1st Class Aaron Thomas, to retire in August, said after the session. "Just what we've learned in the last hour, about resumes and interviewing, and how it's important to avoid military jargon and acronyms in written material... and that's just a small portion of it. You have to learn and realize that just because you had 20 years in the Navy, that doesn't mean you're going to end up as the top dog outside the military structure."

"You might have to reach in there and clean the toilets and work your way up," he added, "just like anybody else."

Call Hooper or Byrd at DSN 252-3114 for more information about the FFSC Transition Assistance Program in Sasebo.

E-mail Greg Tyler at: tyler@pstripes.osd.mil

AFN TV service fully restored

Adjustments to dish required to receive signal

By PATRICK DICKSON
AND ERIK SLAVIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — As of 2 a.m. Thursday, Japan time, Pacific-Region AFN Japan/Korea Direct-To-Home Satellite Service has been restored on a different international commercial satellite.

But switching to the new satellite, the News-Kies-6, located in a different part of the sky, will require a dish and low-noise block adjustment and decoder settings change to receive AFN service again. Those settings and procedures are available at www.myafn.net.

DTH customers must move their satellite dish to the west, adjust the dish up or down, rotate the low-noise block, and change the decoder settings.

"If you understand the directions, it should be fairly easy, like tuning a tuner on the radio," said Keith Lebling, detachment chief at AFN Pacific in Tokyo.

"If someone doesn't understand the directions, we'll provide help."

Viewers paying for AFN satellite dishes and decoders will receive an 84-cent refund per day from AFNEX and NEX for the time missed during the loss of programming, according to spokesmen from both exchange services.

The refund will appear on the next month's bill, they said.

In addition to instructions on its Web site, AFN also has a 24-hour help desk at DSN (312) 348-1339, and another line available in Tokyo at DSN 225-2370, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Viewers can reach the Okinawa technical help desk at DSN 645-7636 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Defense Media Center in Riverside, Calif., has sent help to regional AFN centers to answer the questions.

Primary service for American Forces Network and American Forces Radio and Television Service was lost Jan. 15 when an electrical failure aboard international communications satellite IN-TELSTAR 804 resulted in catastrophic failure.

The loss affected all of mainland Japan, Okinawa, South Korea and other Pacific installations from Diego Garcia to Alaska, Lebling said.

While many AFN stations were able to quickly restore a minimum level of service by switching to the communications satellite dedicated to the joint AFRTS/Navy Direct-To-Sailor service, the normal AFN Japan/Korea regional service was lost.

E-mail Erik Slavin at: slavine@pstripes.osd.mil
E-mail Pat Dickson at: dicksonp@pstripes.osd.mil



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PHOTOS BY JULIANA GITTNER/Stars and Stripes

Army Cpl. Elizero Cestero, right, and Air Force Airman 1st Class Sheera Abein, left, both part of the ceremonial detail, walk with Lt. Gen. Robert R. Blackman Jr., commander of Combined Support Force 536, second from right, and Indonesian Lt. Col. S. Thamrin to carry a memorial wreath to the sea in Thailand during a ceremony Wednesday marking one month since tsunamis devastated South Asia.

Troops reflect on 'sacred duty' during memorial

BY JULIANA GITTNER
Stars and Stripes

JOMTIENT, Thailand — Several hundred servicemembers working in Thailand in support of Operation Unified Assistance walked to the edge of the sea in Thailand on Wednesday to cast off a memorial wreath in memory of the hundreds of thousands killed exactly a month earlier by the same waters a few hundred kilometers away.

Five U.S. chaplains and military liaison chaplains from Thailand, Australia, India and Indonesia helped honor those killed and missing, those grieving their losses and those helping in the relief effort.

Servicemembers closed the memorial by tossing white roses into the surf.

"We have showed that people do care," said Lt. Gen. Robert R. Blackman Jr., the commander of Combined Support Force 536. "We demonstrate to them that we're really here for people in need."

As many as 15,000 servicemembers from the five services came to the region to help minimize the loss of life and mitigate human suffering after a string of tsunamis tore through coastal communities in a dozen countries.

They carried food, drinking water and medical aid to remote locations, removed debris and helped to identify remains of people lost in the disaster.

"It is hard to believe or even imagine the magnitude of sadness" felt by the grieving, Tom Frey, from the U.S. Agency for International Development, said at the memorial.

Even one month later, we still cannot fully appreciate the immensity of the devastation, said Gerhard Putnam-Cramer with the United Nations.



Holding white roses, U.S. troops leading a memorial service Wednesday. The ceremony was attended by several hundred participants of Combined Support Group 536 in Thailand.

He added that the cooperation forged between military and civilian organizations for the operation is "proof of our ability to jointly make a difference."

Blackman closed by telling the gathered servicemembers that their military functions also serve an important humanitarian role.

"Ours is far beyond military duties" he said. "Ours is really a sacred duty, and that is bringing home."

E-mail Juliana Gittner at: gittnerj@psstripes.osd.mil

Ceremonies mark month anniversary of tsunamis

Kids in Aceh province return to classrooms

BY YEOH EN-LAI
The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — One month after an epic tsunami ravaged South Asia, children and teachers in Indonesia's worst-hit Aceh province on Wednesday made an emotional return to school, where thousands of desks of classmates and colleagues sat empty.

Alqausar, a 6-year-old boy with neatly parted hair, arrived at school with his mother and wondered where his best friend Andi was.

But reality soon dawned on him.

"I don't think he's coming," whispered the boy, one of six in his class of 43 who showed up at a primary school. Of the school's enrollment of 600, only 260 came Wednesday. The others are presumed dead.

Mourners along a road on Sri Lanka's shattered coastline lit candles and set colored flags in silent memory of at least 30,957 people who died there Dec. 26.

"In memory of that day, for the missing and dead in all the countries, we are praying that a tsunami will never return," said L. Chandarani, head monk at the Ariyakara Viharaya temple near the southern Sri Lankan city of Galle.

Up to 147,000 people are still missing across South Asia, and differing government tallies put the overall death toll between 144,000 and 178,000. But workers continued to find bodies under mud-caked rubble, and the toll was expected to rise.

In Thailand, where at least 5,384 people were killed and more than 3,100 are missing, two residents of the island of Koh Lanta were to mark the anniversary by launching new boats built for them with relief agency donations. Before heading out to sea at high tide, the front of each boat was to be wrapped in a seven-colored cloth and flowers, in keeping with regional traditions.

In Sri Lanka, a judge will begin hearing evidence next week from nine women who claim that an infant dubbed "Baby 81" is her lost child.

The baby boy was found half buried in mud hours after last month's tsunami struck and is being cared for at a hospital in eastern Sri Lanka, where he was the 81st admission on the day of the disaster.

"I will go through all the evidence, and if I am not satisfied, I will order a DNA test," said Judge M.P. Mohaideen.

Behind Wednesday's commemorations and public grieving was a deepening sense of frustration



A U.S. Navy FA-18 Super Hornet fighter takes off Wednesday from the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln off the Indonesian coast. The U.S. military began wrapping up its tsunami relief effort in Indonesia, a month after airlifting food and medicines from warships.

U.S. military scaling down relief operations in Aceh

ABOARD THE USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN — The U.S. military is beginning to scale back its tsunami relief efforts in Indonesia as other nations take over the operations, officials said Wednesday.

The aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln, which was diverted to Sumatra within four days of the Dec. 26 disaster with 17 SH-60 Seahawk helicopters aboard, is preparing to sail home to Everett, Wash., the military officials said.

The United Nations, Australia

and other countries already have begun flying their own helicopters with supplies from Banda Aceh, the provincial capital, to devastated and isolated villages along Sumatra's western coast.

"Our role was important at first. Now that the other forces are coming in, the need for the helicopters is less important, and we will probably start to make our exit from this operation," said Rear Adm. William Crowder, who commands the Lincoln's battle group.

— The Associated Press

Parody song offends

NEW YORK — WQHT-FM continued to be criticized Wednesday for a song a morning deejay played last week that made fun of victims of the South Asian tsunami.

"The Tsunami Song," a parody of "We Are the World" that was aired by Hot 97 morning host Miss Jones, takes jabs at the tragedy and uses ethnic slurs. Local leaders have called on the Federal Communications Commission to take action against the hip-hop station.

The station did post an apology a few hours after the broadcast and also said the station's morning team would donate a week's salary to tsunami relief efforts. The station has received thousands of e-mails calling for Miss Jones to be fired.

From The Associated Press

among some survivors over the slowness of recovery efforts.

"We have not received any assistance yet," read a banner strung between plastic tents housing survivors in Sri Lanka's Galle.

The government has promised to rebuild homes destroyed in the tsunami but has banned houses from being built along the beach front. Fishermen have grumbled that they need to live near the water for their livelihood.

"We have enough food and water but we need boats and nets.

We don't want to be beggars," said fisherman Priyantha Senarathna, 27, who lost his 4-year-old daughter to the waves.

"I lost everything to the sea, but I want to get it back through the sea. If the government will give me a boat, I can start my life again. I just hear politicians' promises but I see no action at all," he said.

The international Red Cross said Wednesday it was winding down fund-raising efforts because it had raised enough money — \$1.17 billion — to sustain long-term aid.

GAO report points to Pentagon waste

BY CHRISTOPHER LEE

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The U.S. government's biggest department is also one of the most prone to waste, fraud and abuse, raising concerns about the effectiveness of many of its programs, according to a new report by the Government Accountability Office.

The Department of Defense accounts for eight of the 25 federal programs, functions or offices that appear on the GAO's 2005 "high-risk" list. Two of its functions — inventory management and weapon systems acquisition — have been on the list of problem programs since 1990.

"This is unacceptable and should not be tolerated," Comptroller General David Walker said Tuesday at a news conference. He was joined, in sentiment and at the lectern, by several lawmakers, including Sens. Susan Collins, R-Maine, Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., George Voinovich, R-Ohio, and Daniel Akaka, D-Hawaii; and Reps. Tom Davis, R-Va. and Henry Waxman, D-Calif.

Walker noted that the Pentagon also has several other programs that landed on the list, a compilation of the biggest managerial trouble spots across the federal government issued by the GAO every other year. He said the department's failure to turn around many of the problem areas "re-



AP

U.S. Comptroller General David Walker discusses a report listing high risk areas for government waste, fraud and abuse during a news conference on Tuesday.

sults in billions of dollars in waste each year and inadequate accountability to the Congress and the American taxpayer."

Areas of concern at Defense include financial and contract management, the personnel security clearance program, management of military bases, and modernization of its computer systems, the report found.

Cheryl Irwin, a department spokeswoman, said Tuesday that officials need time to study the report before commenting. "We are

certainly reviewing it. "It's a little bit premature at this time for us to have a full response."

New to the high-risk list this year is a government-wide problem of ineffective sharing of information related to homeland security. The report cited the "slow pace" of information sharing between fingerprint databases at the Department of Homeland Security and the Justice Department. It also said that inconsistent agency policies and overlapping sets of data would impede efforts to consolidate information from 12 terrorist and criminal watch systems maintained by nine federal agencies.

The report's findings "essentially say to us that we haven't achieved the homeland security the law requires us to achieve," said Lieberman, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. "... The risk here is to the personal security of the American people at home."

The GAO did say that information sharing has improved since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Congress created Homeland Security to serve, among other things, as a repository for information.

Lawmakers said the report provides a guide for agencies to improve and, in some cases, an indication of where Congress should step in with legislation.

Trouble spots

The Defense Department accounts for about one-third of the functions, offices or programs on the Government Accountability Office's 2005 "high-risk" list for being inefficient or ineffective.

Government function or program designated "high-risk," by year it was added to list

2005

Defense Department personnel security clearance
Defense Department business transformation
Effective information sharing to improve homeland security
Management of interagency contracting

2003

Disability program modernization
Implementing the Department of Homeland Security
Managing federal property
Medicaid program
Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp. single-employer insurance program

2001

Personnel planning, hiring and retention
Postal Service transformation and long-term outlook

1997

Defense Department support infrastructure management
Protecting government information systems

1995

Defense Department business systems modernization
Defense Department financial management
Federal Aviation Administration air traffic control modernization
Internal Revenue Service business systems modernization

1994

Housing and Urban Development single-family mortgage insurance, rental housing assistance programs

1992

Defense Department contract management

1990

Defense Department supply-chain management
Defense Department weapon system acquisition
Energy Department contract management
Enforcement of tax laws
Medicare program
NASA contract management

Source: The Washington Post

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IN THE STATES



Condoleezza Rice

Senate OKs Rice for job at State

BY BARRY SCHWED

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Condoleezza Rice won easy confirmation Wednesday to be President Bush's new secretary of state, despite strong dissent from a small group of Democrats who said she shares blame for mistakes and war deaths in Iraq.

The Senate voted 85 to 13 to confirm Rice, who succeeds Colin Powell as America's top diplomat and becomes the first black woman to hold the job.

Plans were made for her to be sworn in at the White House on Wednesday night, take her place in the State Department on Thursday morning and have a more elaborate swearing-in by Bush at the agency on Friday.

The Senate vote showed some of the partisanship that delayed Rice's confirmation vote by several days. Twelve Democrats and independent James Jeffords of Vermont voted against Rice. Thirty Democrats voted for her.

Democratic foes of her appointment focused mostly on the way Bush and Rice took the United States to war in Iraq and how they have handled the war with insurgents since deposing Saddam Hussein.

They said mistakes had led to mounting American casualties. As the debate drew to a close, word came from Iraq of the crash of a U.S. military transport helicopter in bad weather, killing at least 30 people in the worst U.S. loss since the war.

Rice, 50, is Bush's trusted national security aide and a main architect of his policies on Iraq and the war on terror.

Also Wednesday, a Senate Judiciary Committee divided along partisan lines advanced Alberto Gonzales' nomination as attorney general to the full Senate Wednesday despite Democratic complaints that he is too close to President Bush to be effective as the nation's top law enforcement official.

10 dead in Calif. train derailment

Police blame accident on 'suicidal' man who left SUV on tracks

BY DAISY NGUYEN

The Associated Press

GLENDALE, Calif. — A commuter train smashed into an SUV left on a crossing by a suicidal man early Wednesday, derailed and crashed into another train, authorities said. Ten people were killed and about 200 were injured.

The SUV driver changed his mind about suicide and left the vehicle before it was hit, Police Chief Randy Adams said. The man will be charged with homicide, he said.

Cars from both Metrolink trains derailed and some landed on their sides, sending passengers tumbling down the aisles, authorities said.

"This whole incident was started by a deranged individual that was suicidal," Adams said at a news conference at the scene of mangled railcars in a suburb north of downtown Los Angeles.

"I think his intent at the time was to take his own life but changed his mind prior to the train actually striking this vehicle," the chief said. The man, identified as Juan Manuel Alvarez, 26, of Compton, stood by as the south-



Firefighters examine the wreckage from Wednesday's train derailment in Glendale, Calif. Two Metrolink commuter trains derailed, killing 10 people and injuring about 200 hundred commuters, authorities said.

bound Metrolink train struck his vehicle, derailed and hit the north-bound train, Adams said.

Alvarez had also tried to slash his wrists, authorities said.

In was the worst rail accident in the United States since March 15, 1999, when an Amtrak train hit a truck and derailed near

Bourbonnais, Ill., killing 11 people and injuring more than 100.

Firefighters picked through twisted wreckage and carried injured passengers from the trains to a triage center set up in a nearby parking lot.

One commuter train was headed from Los Angeles' Union Sta-

tion to downtown Burbank, and the other was bound to Union Station from Moorpark, Metrolink officials said. The accident happened a little after 6 a.m.

"I heard a noise. It got louder and louder," said passenger Diane Brady, 56, of Simi Valley. "And next thing I knew the train tilted, everyone was screaming and I held onto a pole for dear life. I held on for what seemed like a week and a half. It seemed. It was a complete nightmare."

In a light rain, firefighters climbed ladders into windows of a battered train tipped onto its side.

Nearly 300 firefighters were at the scene and 53 ambulances were taking injured passengers to hospitals, officials said.

Dazed passengers, some limping, gathered at tables in a nearby store, while the injured sprawled on color-coded mats in the parking lot: red for those with severe injuries, green for those less seriously harmed.

As the cars tumbled off the tracks, one of the Metrolink trains struck a parked Union Pacific car, tipping it onto its side, said Kathryn Blackwell, a railroad spokeswoman in Omaha, Neb.

Survivor: 'Next thing I knew, the train tilted'

GLENDALE, Calif. — Passengers on Metrolink Train 100 heard a terrible rumbling. The lights suddenly flickered out, the floor tilted at a dangerous angle, and Tracy West went flying.

"I was flipping over people until I landed a couple of feet ahead and hit a cup-holder, armrest or something," said West, 38, of Los Angeles. "Then when it was over, I saw that I was bleeding and had bruises all over."

West spoke as she was treated for a severe leg wound at a triage center set up in a parking lot for survivors of Wednesday's train crash. Those who emerged from the trains said they had no idea what was happening as cars slid awkwardly and commuters who had been

napping tumbled down the aisles.

"I heard a noise. It got louder and louder. And next thing I knew the train tilted, everyone was screaming and I held onto a pole for dear life," said Diane Brady, 56, of Simi Valley. "I held on for what seemed like a week and a half ... It was a complete nightmare, like nothing I've experienced in my 6 1/2 years of taking the Metrolink."

Transportation engineer Paul Konkrit, 28, of Burbank braced himself when the train began sliding, grabbing hold of a bar.

"We hit and then somebody's head landed on my thigh," said Konkrit, his jeans covered in blood as he stood near the scene of the accident. The bleeding woman told him over

and over, "I can't move my head."

"I sat there and I tried to comfort her. I don't know what else to do," Konkrit said. "Then it got really smoky ... smoky that I had to leave. I don't know what happened to her."

Hemlata Thomas, 67, of Chatsworth heard the roar of the crash and the screams of passengers around her. "I thought it was an earthquake because of the sound of gravel under the train," Thomas said.

Thomas had only started taking the train to her job at Bank of America about six days ago, after friends convinced her that it would be less stressful than driving. She said she is unsure whether she will take the train again.

— Daisy Nguyen

Rap mogul, drug kingpin surrender in investigation

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The hip-hop label behind music superstars A\$AP Rocky and J. Cole was part of a murderous criminal enterprise that protected its interstate crack and heroin operation with calculated street assassinations, federal authorities charged Wednesday.

Label head Irv "Gotti" Lorenzo and his brother Christopher surrendered to the FBI on money-laundering charges Wednesday as federal prosecutors unsealed an indictment seeking to confiscate all the assets of their label, Murder Inc.

Their childhood friend, Kenneth "Supreme" McGriff, one of New York's most notorious drug

kingpins, was charged with murder, racketeering and other crimes that prosecutors said were intended to eliminate and intimidate potential witnesses.

He already is in prison on a relatively minor gun charge. Prosecutors believe McGriff and the Lorenzos funneled hundreds of thousands of dollars in drug profits through The Inc., a chart-topping label owned partly by Island Def Jam, a Universal Music Group label.

Federal agents began to close in on McGriff and the Lorenzos in recent months with arrests that netted J. Cole's manager and a bookkeeper for Murder Inc. At least five other defendants, including associates of McGriff, already have been charged.

Simultaneous school bus accidents injure 15

BROOKSVILLE, Fla. — Eight children and the driver were injured when a school bus overturned in Hernando County on Wednesday morning, the Florida Highway Patrol said.

The bus with 24 students was bound for Moton Elementary School when it left the road and overturned at about 8:20 a.m., Coggins said. It was unclear why the bus left the road, Coggins said.

In Logan, W.Va., at the exact same time, a school bus hit a patch of black ice near a railroad crossing and overturned, causing minor injuries to the bus driver and five children.

Obesity suit against McDonald's revived on appeal

NEW YORK — An appeals court revived part of a class-action lawsuit blaming McDonald's for making people fat, reinstating claims pertaining to deceptive advertising.

In a statement, Oak Brook, Ill.-based McDonald's Corp. said "common sense tells you this particular case makes no sense," adding the ruling "simply delays the inevitable conclusion that this case is without merit."

Bush asks GOP to back Social Security reform

WASHINGTON — President Bush publicly pressed Republicans on Wednesday to lend aid and approve personal accounts under Social Security, conceding some lawmakers are concerned about whether it will be worth the political price. "I think it is," he said.

From wire reports



B-to-the-E, Anheuser-Busch's new 'brew,' is beer infused with caffeine, ginseng, herbal guarana and fruit flavoring.

Beermaker launches new 'brew'

BY JIM SUHR
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Going against the grain in courting the young cocktail crowd, beermaker Anheuser-Busch Cos. is launching a new "brew," to go head-to-head with classic mixed drinks — traditional suds spiked with caffeine, fruit flavoring, herbal guarana and ginseng.

The world's largest brewer's nationwide rollout this week of B-to-the-E — the "B" standing for beer, the "E" for something "extra" and shown as an exponent of B — came as beermakers look to piggyback strides liquor companies have made in luring young consumers to flavored and mixed drinks.

Anheuser-Busch test marketed B-to-the-E from the fall, eventually assessing in 55 U.S. cities whether the new "beer" appealed to 20-something consumers craving something zippy in their highly social, fast-paced lifestyles.

"It's producing a lot of excitement for this beer category in that consumers and bartenders are not looking at this as a typical beer," in many cases with B-to-the-E served over ice, said Dawn Roepke, the St. Louis-based brewer's brand manager of new-product development. "It's going right up against mixed drinks."

She declined to reveal sales data.

Slightly sweet but tart and coming in the aromas of blackberry, raspberry and cherry, B-to-the-E is to be marketed toward "active 21- to 27-year-old experimenters looking for new tastes and options."

Anheuser-Busch trumpets itself as the first major brewer to infuse beer with caffeine, ginseng and guarana, the latter a caffeine-bearing herb used in a popular Brazilian soft drink.

Education official pans PBS cartoon with gay characters

BY BEN FELLER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The nation's new education secretary denounced the Public Broadcasting Service for spending public money on a cartoon with lesbian characters, saying many parents would not want children exposed to such lifestyles.

The not-yet-aired episode of "Postcards From Buster" shows the title character, an animated bunny named Buster, on a trip to Vermont — a state known for recognizing same-sex civil unions. The episode features two lesbian couples, although the focus is on farm life and maple sugaring.

A PBS spokesman said late Tuesday that the non-profit network has decided not to distribute the episode, called "Sugartime," to its 349 stations. She said the Education Department's objections were not a factor in that decision.

"Ultimately, our decision was based on the fact that we recognize this is a sensitive issue, and we wanted to make sure that parents had an opportunity to introduce this subject to their children in their own time," said Lea Sloan, vice president of media relations at PBS.

However, the Boston public television station that produces the show, WGBH, does plan to make the "Sugartime" episode available to other stations. WGBH also plans to air the episode on March 23, Sloan said.

PBS gets money for the "Postcards from Buster" series through the federal Ready-To-Learn program, one aimed at helping young children learn through television.

Education Secretary Margaret Spellings said the "Sugartime" episode does not fulfill the intent Congress had in mind when programming. By law, she said, any funded shows must give top attention to "research-based educational objectives, content and materials."

"Many parents would not want their young children exposed to the lifestyles portrayed in the episode," Spellings wrote in a letter sent Tuesday to Pat Mitchell, president and chief executive officer of PBS.

"Congress" and the Department's purpose in funding this programming certainly was not to introduce this kind of subject matter to children, particularly through the powerful and intimate medium of television."

She asked PBS to consider refunding the money it spent on the episode.

With her letter, Spellings has made criticism of the publicly funded program's depiction of the gay lifestyle one of her first acts as secretary. She began on Monday, replacing Rod Paige as President Bush's education chief.

Spellings issued three requests to PBS.



Gloria and Bobby Doster stand in their Shoats Grocery & Package country store in Hutchins, Ga. The Dosters said they exchanged gunfire with two men who tried to rob their store. Both men were killed.

Ga. grocery owners kill armed men in holdup

BY ELIOTT C. McLAUGHLIN
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — When two men walked into a popular country store outside Atlanta, announced a holdup and fired a shot, owners Bobby and Gloria Doster never hesitated. The pair pulled out their own pistols and opened fire.

The armed suspect and his partner were killed. The Dosters were not charged, according to local officials, because they were acting in self-defense.

"I just started shooting," said Gloria Doster, 56. "I was trying to blow his brains out is what I was trying to do."

Shoats Grocery & Package near Crawford, 70 miles east of Atlanta, is a well-known spot where locals stop for breakfast biscuits and lunch. Gloria Doster said the two men who came there Monday had something else in mind.

She was rearranging boxes of soda by the store's front door when a man wearing a wig walked inside, the fake hair draped in front of his face.

"I asked him, 'Can you see to walk?'" Doster said. Then she noticed a second man behind him wearing a mask. He announced a holdup.

One man grabbed Gloria Doster and pushed her toward the register. She said the other kept his gun on her 62-year-old husband, who also goes by the name Shoats.

She tried to open the register, but one of the men told her she wasn't moving fast enough and tried to shoot her husband. He missed — and his gun jammed.

At that point, Bobby Doster pulled out a .380-caliber handgun and shot one of the suspects. Gloria Doster then went for a 9 mm pistol she keeps near the register.

"All hell broke loose," she said. "I was trying to shoot and dial 911 at the same time."

Both suspects took cover behind the store's meat counter as the Dosters opened fire. Gloria Doster said she doesn't know how many bullets were fired, or how many times the suspects were hit.

Police arrived about five minutes after receiving Gloria Doster's call, the suspects died a short time later at a hospital.

The bloodshed, nevertheless, startled Gloria Doster, who has been around guns all her life, and has used them for target shooting. "But I never figured I'd have to use them on anybody," she said.

She said the worst thing that's happened in the seven years the couple has owned the store was an after-hours break-in by teenagers three years ago. The burglars were promptly arrested.

City weighs bag tax

SAN FRANCISCO — City officials are considering a proposal to slap a 17-cent surcharge on paper or plastic shopping bags.

While no other U.S. city imposes a shopping bag tax, such a strategy has been successfully employed in Ireland, South Africa, Bangladesh, Australia, Shanghai and Taiwan.

Environmentalists say plastic bags jam machinery, pollute waterways, suffocate wildlife and often end up as eyesores in trees or brush. The state's shoppers bring home about 50 million bags each year, according to an environmental study.

Others, bag manufacturers and trade groups say many people already reuse their plastic bags. Other opponents call the plan an unfair and regressive tax on shoppers.

Generic AIDS drug OK'd

NEW YORK — The Food and Drug Administration's approval of a generic and less costly version of a widely used AIDS drug combination is expected to expand AIDS treatment in the developing world.

The FDA backing means relief organizations funded by President Bush's \$15 billion AIDS relief plan can buy the product made by Aspen Pharmacare, South Africa's largest drug maker.

Tuesday's announcement marks the first time the FDA has approved a generic AIDS product made by a foreign drug company.

The FDA approved a generic drug made by Barr Laboratories in December, but Tuesday's announcement is considered a major advancement because the Aspen drug combination is so widely used as a first-line therapy.

Grants for homeless

LOS ANGELES — Thousands of local homeless programs throughout the nation will receive a record \$1.4 billion in Housing and Urban Development grants.

It's the fourth year HUD has provided record funding for homeless assistance. The Bush administration has a stated goal of eradicating chronic homelessness, defined as an individual who has been homeless for more than a year, by 2010.

Ruling draws protests

DOVER, Del. — A ruling by the Delaware Supreme Court could free nearly 20 inmates serving life terms for murder, rape and kidnapping — a decision that has drawn impassioned protests from victims' families and lawmakers.

The court's decision that some life sentences should be considered 10-year terms applies only to life-with-parole sentences handed down for crimes committed before Delaware clarified its sentencing laws in mid-1990.

On Tuesday, the state House unanimously passed a bill declaring the ruling "null and void," although lawmakers acknowledged the measure may violate the separation of powers.

The vote came after lawmakers heard pleas from victims' families.

From The Associated Press

FACES

'Spaces' revamp leaves Davis jobless

Struggling to compete with the rise of home makeover shows across network and cable television, TLC's "Trading Spaces" will undergo a facelift. After this spring, "Spaces" will move to a host-less format, meaning that Paige Davis will be departing the cast.

"We believe that this new creative direction will enable the show to be more spontaneous, focus more on the homeowners and designers, and create alternative home trades in different cities and on opposite coasts," the network says in a statement.

Davis joined "Trading Spaces" in 2001 and has been hosting ever since. It's unclear if TLC's decision to go host-less has anything to do with the pictures of Davis doing a striptease at a party and the unfounded rumors of a Davis sex tape had anything to do with the decision.



Davis

HBO sweeps major producers categories

Premium cable giant HBO dominated Saturday night's Producers Guild of America awards, winning prizes for drama, comedy and long-form programming.

The Norman Felton Producer of the Year Award for episodic drama went to HBO's "The Sopranos" and the team of David Chase, Brad Grey, Mitchell Burgess, Robin Green, Ilene S. Landress, Terence Winter, Henry Bronchstein, Matthew Weiner and Martin Brustein. The mob drama, which won its first outstanding drama Emmy last fall, also won the PGA drama award back in 2000.

HBO's "Curb Your Enthusiasm" also won its second Danny Thomas Producer of the Year Award for episodic comedy. Larry David, Jeff Garlin, Robert B. Weide and Tim Gibbons were the show's honored producers.

Kutcher brings 'Beauty' to the WB

Ashton Kutcher and producing partner Jason Goldberg are making their first foray into network reality production with the WB's provocatively titled "Beauty and the Geek." The series has recently begun production.

"It's a kind of make-over-meets-a-competition show, where we pair really intelligent young men, high-IQ Mensa students, with some really attractive women who may not quite have the same capacity," explains WB Entertainment President David Janollari.

On the production side, Kutcher and Goldberg are best known, of course, for the MTV series "Punk'd." Janollari promises that despite the somewhat sketchy premise, the new series won't be mean-spirited. In the show's premise, the very different men and women are paired up and they're expected to share their strengths to become a well-rounded couple.



Kutcher

'Reba' says hello, Dolly

Reba McEntire will be joined on her sitcom by another country-music star later this season when Dolly Parton guest-stars on an episode.

The episode, which tapes in mid-February, will be a rare sitcom appearance for Parton, her last such guest spot was on an episode of CBS's short-lived "Bette" in October 2000. She's also appeared on "Designing Women."

In the "Reba" episode, which doesn't have an airdate yet, she'll be playing a successful real-estate broker who crosses paths with Reba, who's entering the business world. The part was crafted with Parton in mind.



Reba

'What I Like' stages '90210' reunion

The Feb. 25 episode of The WB's "What I Like About You" will briefly reunite "Beverly Hills, 90210" stars Luke Perry and Jennie Garth, which must mean that somewhere out there, Shannen Doherty is storming off in disgust. Perry's appearance leads a list of February sweeps stunts on The WB.

Perry will appear in the episode called "Dangerous Liaisons."

Stories and photos from wire services

Just a team player

Kevin Costner is game for a new character (but an old role) in 'The Upside of Anger'

BY DAVID GERMAIN

The Associated Press

There are three notable differences in Kevin Costner's latest career move as a big-screen ballplayer:

■ The star of the previous baseball flicks "Bull Durham," "Field of Dreams" and "For Love of the Game" plays a retired ballplayer in the comic drama "The Upside of Anger," which premiered over the weekend at the Sundance Film Festival.

■ Costner is a supporting performer to the film's central character,

played by Joan Allen.

■ The actor known for such sober dramas as "Dances With Wolves," "JFK" and "The Untouchables" is playing a good old goofball, a big-hearted meathard with a dopey laugh, a chronic marijuana buzz and a long-neck beer bottle perpetually in hand.

When writer-director Mike Binder's script for "The Upside of Anger" came his way, Costner had a moment's hesitation about doing another ballplayer.

"But listen, I'm not that timid about, 'Ooh, what are people going to think?'" Costner said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I didn't think 'Field of Dreams' had anything to do with 'For Love of the Game.' I didn't think that 'Love of the Game' had anything to do with 'Bull Durham.' And I didn't do any of them because they were baseball."

"When I saw this, I thought the not-careful journalists will write, 'Oh, another baseball movie.' But I did this because he was an interesting character."

Opening theatrically in March, "The Upside of Anger" stars Allen as a woman with four daughters (Erika Christensen, Evan Rachel Wood, Keri Russell and Alicia Witt) who turns boozy and caustically bitter after her husband pulls a vanishing act.

Costner plays Allen's laid-back neighbor, a former baseball star who becomes her drinking buddy and eventually tumbles into an uneasy relationship as her lover and referee for the woman's spats with her daughters.

Allen said it was refreshing for Costner to cut loose in a jollier role.

"I thought it would be fun to see him play something like that," Allen said. "We referred to him as a big teddy bear all the time. He was just really lovable and sweet and kind of goofy among all these women."

Binder, also co-starring as a lecherous pal who produces a radio talk show hosted by Costner's character, wrote the script with Allen in mind. The two had become chummy on the set of Allen's political drama "The Contender," in which Binder co-starred.

But it was Costner's star power that secured financing for the film. Costner, an Academy Award winner for best picture and director on "Dances With Wolves," never tried to muscle in on the production, though, said Binder, who wrote and starred in the HBO series "The Mind of the Married Man."



Kevin Costner, star of the film "The Upside of Anger," poses at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, where the comic drama premiered.

"He was the driving force behind getting the movie greenlighted, but he never used that power, which I respected," Binder said. "He was always one of the ensemble, one of the players. Never pulled rank. He never came to my editing room, never wanted to read anything. He truly was just a player and a supportive guy."

One of Hollywood's biggest box-office draws in the late 1980s and early '90s with "Field of Dreams," "Dances With Wolves" and "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves," Costner has had fruitful results with his movies over the last 12 years.

Last summer's Western "Open Range," which Costner directed and starred in, and the golf romance "Tin Cup" were modest successes.

But his acclaimed political drama "Thirteen Days" failed to find an audience, and he had flops with such movies as the supernatural thriller "Dragondrill" and the heist flick "3000 Miles to Graceland."

Costner, who turned 50 this month,

said studio pressures to boost the films' commercial prospects undermined some of his big-budgeted movies.

"I think some of the movies haven't lived up to what they should have been," Costner said. "When they're not done for a lot of money, sometimes you get a clearer voice, one single voice, about what the movie's to be about. And some of the movies for me that have not performed as well as I thought they could have, I think was because too many voices enter into them."

Costner said he feels no career pressure to deliver another breakout hit, saying his films have been profitable enough between theatrical and home-video revenues.

"I know what my movies do economically. I, like everybody else, understand what they do on opening weekend," Costner said. "The economic life of my movies, I'm really comfortable with what happens to them when they go out there, and so are the studios."

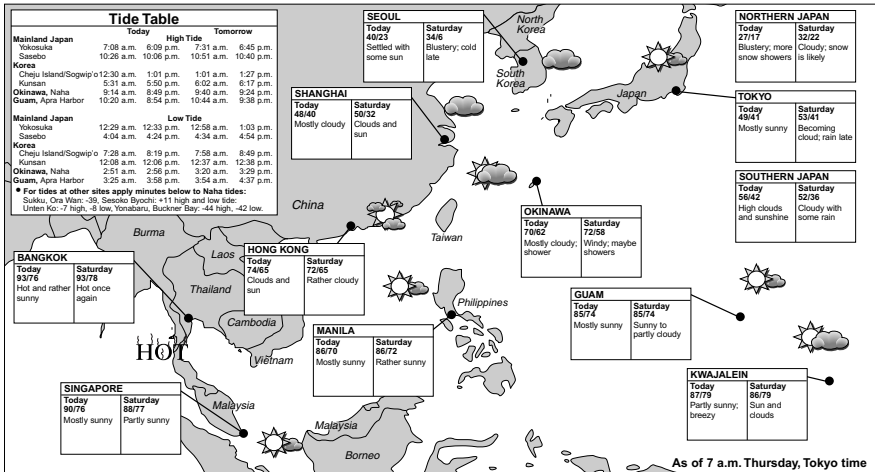
• **SPORTS**

8:00 Top Choice
10:00 Pure Music
11:00 Top Choice
Afternoon
12:00 Classic '90s
1:30 Screen
1:30 Consensus: The Chemistry
2:00 Pure Music
3:00 Top Choice
5:00 Japan Chart Top 10
Evening
6:00 M Size Friday
7:00 Rocks
8:00 Live Special: The Chemistry
8:30 Live
9:00 I-Catch
9:30 Top Choice
10:00 Screen
10:30 Makes A Video: Cam'ron
11:00 World Chart Express Powered by Honda
11:00 YATAI
2:00 M Size Friday
3:00 Fresh
3:30 After Hours

The Pacific Forecast

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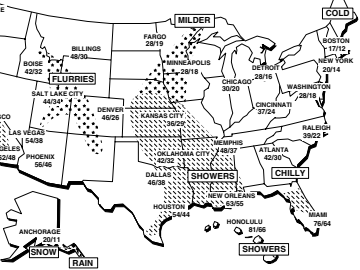
Extended Forecasts

TOKYO Sunday: Partly sunny, high 48, low 29. Monday: Partly sunny, high 41, low 26.	KADENA Sunday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 64, low 52. Monday: Showers, high 58, low 50.	SEOUL Sunday: Mostly sunny, high 20, low 1. Monday: Partly sunny, high 16, low -1.	MANILA Sunday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 84, low 72. Monday: Partly sunny, high 86, low 72.	HAGATNA Sunday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 85, low 74. Monday: Partly sunny, high 85, low 74.
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Wednesday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	50/38	Los Angeles	65/52
Amarillo	58/33	Little Rock	68/34
Anchorage	28/15	Louisville	46/21
Ashville	58/32	Miami	76/59
Baltimore	49/17	Milwaukee	26/9
Birmingham	67/36	Nashville	56/26
Bismarck	18/6	New York	37/13
Boise	42/32	Omaha	35/17
Boston	29/9	Orlando	74/54
Brownsville	84/64	Philadelphia	40/16
Buffalo	20/2	Phoenix	64/35
Burlington	10/8	Pittsburgh	41/10
Charleston, SC	70/46	Portland, OR	54/42
Charlotte	67/36	Portland, ME	17/0
Cleveland	36/10	Salt Lake City	42/21
Columbus, OH	39/14	St. Louis	44/21
Duluth	13/-3	San Antonio	83/52
El Paso	56/44	San Diego	76/50
Cincinnati	27/8	San Juan	79/57
Helena	41/20	Tampa	73/59
Indianapolis	37/15	Tulsa	59/29
Jacksonville	74/50	Washington	46/24
Kansas City	42/19	Wichita	51/27

Friday, January 28



U.S. Extended Forecast

Pacific moisture will produce rain and mountain snow in California, as well as Oregon and Washington Friday. Meanwhile, a disturbance in the jet stream will lead to rainy conditions across Texas and the Gulf Coast states. Showers will also wet parts of Florida. A large area of high pressure over the Northeast will produce sunny but bitterly cold weather from Maine southward to the Carolinas. Temperatures will turn somewhat milder across the Midwest. Over the weekend, moisture will spread into the Carolinas and the Tennessee Valley. Rain may be mixed with ice across parts of the region. The Northeast will remain dry but cold. Wet weather will continue to plague the southern Plains.

Friday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	93/76	Wakani	53/41
Beijing	42/19	Kadena AB	70/62
Camp Casey	41/24	Kunsan AB	44/34
Christchurch	77/56	Kwajalein	87/79
Diego Garcia	86/77	Manila	86/70
Hagatna	85/74	Masawa AB	34/26
Hanoi	81/70	Osan	43/25
Hong Kong	74/65	Perth	65/64
Honolulu	81/66	Pusan	50/38
		Tokyo	49/41

Friday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	89/71	Budapest	29/12	Katol	31/8
Athens	52/50	Buenos Aires	91/70	Kiev	21/7
Auckland	71/58	Cairo	84/65	Kuwait	66/45
Baghdad	65/44	Cancun	80/67	London	43/37
Barbados	87/71	Cape Town	74/55	Madrid	38/28
Barcelona	36/27	Geneva	41/17	Mexico City	70/45
Berlin	25/16	Istanbul	37/36	Montreal	7/6
Bermuda	56/42	Jerusalem	72/54	Mogadishu	92/76
Brussels	36/25	Johannesburg	85/65	Osaka	13/17
				Warsaw	20/4



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Stabilizing the school

PA HERSHEY — The Milton Hershey School Trust board has restructured itself in what its chairman said was an effort to stabilize school operations and help the school expand.

Among other changes, the board chairman serves three years now, instead of two, and there is a succession plan for board leadership. Chairman Anthony J. Colistra said shorter terms and frequent turnovers in administration leads to instability.

But Ric Fouad, a former alumni association board member and now a lawyer for the association, sees other motives behind the moves.

"All they have done is entrench themselves and extend their own terms beyond what their bylaws permit while labeling it a reorganization," Fouad said.

Horse on the highway

TX HOUSTON — A police officer who struck a runaway horse on a freeway was critically injured, authorities say.

Several other motorists struck the horse's carcass on Interstate 45 before police could shut down the freeway's northbound lanes.

The injured officer, who was off-duty and driving a personal vehicle, managed to get onto the shoulder of the freeway after the collision, but the top of his car was sheared off by the impact, said David Gutierrez, a Houston Police Department accident investigator.

He said the horse was running southbound in the northbound lanes of I-45, just north of the Interstate-610 loop, when the first collision occurred.

Mayor under fire

MI DETROIT — With his city teetering above a financial abyss, Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick went before television viewers this month and delivered some grave news: He had no choice but to lay off nearly 700 city workers and cut services. This was no time for wanton spending, he said.

Days later, Kilpatrick found his own spending under attack when a local television station reported that the city just signed a \$25,000 lease for a Lincoln Navigator for Kilpatrick's wife — a fact the mayor at first denied but eventually confirmed.

The Navigator story snowballed after Kilpatrick's bodyguard showed a TV reporter against a wall. It was just the latest in a series of allegations that the 34-year-old former college football player has used city resources to enhance his personal life.

Kilpatrick, a first-term mayor facing an election this year, has won praise for his willingness to confront the city's \$230 million shortfall in next year's budget.

Earth-friendly dams

NH MANCHESTER — The Public Service Company of New Hampshire is hoping to renew its license to operate power-generating dams on the Merrimack River.

That may mean making the dams more environmentally friendly. The company's 25-year license to operate dams in Manchester, Bow and Hooksett expires at the end of this year.

As part of its application, the



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

company is proposing to allow the river to run more freely at the Amoskeag dam. Right now, water is held behind the dam then fed through to generate electricity during the day.

Suspect walks out

FL ORLANDO — A murder suspect who was inadvertently allowed to leave police headquarters more than a week ago, turned himself in, authorities said. Taveress Webster, 18, was arrested Jan. 13 in a fatal shooting during a home invasion last July, then interviewed by homicide investigators. But a "breakdown in communication" allowed Webster to leave the building after the interview.

"We do a good, very good job on our investigations. We are diligent with them. This was a mistake that slipped through the cracks," Orlando police spokesman Brian Gilliam said.

Recognizing natives

HI HONOLULU — Sen. Daniel Akaka plans to reintroduce the so-called Akaka bill, which would allow Native Hawaiians to seek federal recognition. Akaka, D-Hawaii, said he wanted to introduce the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act, while Rep. Neil Abernethy, D-Hawaii, would introduce the

measure in the House.

The bill would establish an office in the Department of the Interior to address Native Hawaiian issues and to create an interagency group composed of representatives of federal agencies that currently administer programs and policies affecting Hawaiians.

In effect, the federal government would recognize Hawaiians as a native population, as it already does American Indians and Native Alaskans.

Guard charged with rape

NY SLATE HILL — A 33-year-old school security guard faces charges for a sexual relationship state police say he had with a female student starting when she was 14.

Bruce Etheridge of Warwick was charged with third-degree rape, third-degree sodomy, third-degree sexual abuse, endangering the welfare of a child and forcible touching.

The Miniskin Valley Central School District fired Etheridge, Superintendent Martha Murray said. He was employed for nine years at the school in Slate Hill, 57 miles north of New York City.

Smoking out tobacco

WY CHEYENNE — The state Department of Health is planning a week dedicated to ending smoking tobacco addiction, officials said. Wyoming has more chewing tobacco users per capita than any state besides West Virginia. Through With Chew Week will take place Feb. 13-19.

Jury duty pays off

MA BOSTON — Edward H. Walsh was hanging out with friends on a South Boston beach in 1978 when he made a gesture with his hand, his high school class ring flew off and got lost in the sand.

He looked for it, but never expected to see it again.

Walsh, Don Bosco Tech class of 1978, grew up, and got married to another man shortly after gay marriage became legal in Massachusetts.

His husband, Kevin Kennedy, was serving as a foreman on a civil jury in Boston last month when he got talking to a 65-year-old woman from South Boston who happened to be an inveterate beach comber.

The woman, Mary Maberry, happened to mention some of the things she had found on the beach over the years, including a 1978 class ring she found last spring carved with the initials EWH inside from the now closed high school.

Maberry, a retired nurse, had tried to find the owner of the ring, but had not been able to locate a 1978 Don Bosco yearbook.

Kennedy mentioned in passing that his husband graduated from Don Bosco in 1978, and he would ask if he had a yearbook for that year.

Maberry, out of curiosity, had Kennedy write down his husband's initials.

She returned to the Suffolk County courthouse the next day and gave the ring to Kennedy, who had no idea Walsh had even lost a class ring. Maberry suggested giving Walsh the ring back on Christmas, which Kennedy did.

"I was slack-jawed," said Walsh, 44. "It's my ring."



Running by moonlight

A jogger is silhouetted in the full moon while running along the Walnut Street bridge in Chattanooga, Tenn.



Just fishin'

Andrew Moreno, 10, tries his fishing luck at Young Park in Las Cruces, N.M.



I feel pretty

Sally Beckman, right, a stylist with Rejeunve Medspa of Centralia, Ill., tends to details in Deanna Downen's hairstyle at Bridal Expo-Year 2005, at the Centralia Recreation Complex. Beckman was working during the bridal fair's popular style show, which featured clothing for children, men, women and brides-to-be.



On the up and up

A construction worker from Miron Construction Co. Inc. climbs the stairs in the new city parking garage in downtown Green Bay, Wis.



Heating things up
ville, Fla., shortly after sunrise.

With the air temperature in the 20s, swimmers do laps through the fog created by the warm 84-degree water of the Bolles School pool in Jacksonville, Fla., shortly after sunrise.



Walk on the cold side

Joan Lintault, left, and Elaine Blythe walk with Taro, Lintault's dog, on a road through a windswept field on the Mohonk Preserve in New Paltz, N.Y.



Swing time

Hayley Aliperto, 4, swings at Gibson Park in Great Falls, Mont. While the entire United States digs out from a blizzard, the National Weather Service was predicting record heat in Great Falls, Mont.



Rattling their nerves

Mary Ann Yarbrough, aka the Snake Lady, travels around to schools, giving talks about snakes common to the state of Alabama. Here she shows off a rattlesnake to students at Isabella Elementary School in Maplesville, Ala.

Richmond police chief

VA RICHMOND — Rodney David Monroe, police chief of Macon, Ga., will take the same job in Richmond, Va., city officials announced.

Monroe, 47, was introduced at a news conference at police headquarters and will begin overseeing the department of 628 police officers in two to three weeks.

Virginia's capital city has been plagued by drug crime and has had nearly 100 murders a year recently.

Vandals halt classes

VT JERICHO — Vandals disconnected buses from heaters, tampered with some of the vehicles' engines and threw water at their doors to freeze them shut, forcing schools in five towns to close for the day.

"State police are involved. We are calling Crime Stoppers. We are discussing a reward. This is not something we're going to be taking lightly," said Bob Magee, the transportation supervisor for the Chittenden East Supervisory Union school district.

Leader leaves NAACP

WA SEATTLE — Carl B. Mack, known for forceful, outspoken candor as president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, has been named executive director of the National Society of Black Engineers.

Mack, 42, was chosen by a search committee to succeed Michele Lezama, according to a news release issued by the engineers group in Alexandria, Va., one of the largest student-run organizations nationwide with about 15,000 members and about 300 chapters.

Grading the Ivy League

NJ PRINCETON — For students at Princeton University, final exams are even more stressful this year: The Ivy League school decided to make it harder to earn an A.

The crackdown on high grades, part of a national battle against grade inflation at elite schools, has increased anxiety, and in some cases, made friendly rivalry between whether they should offer study help to their competitors, er, classmates.

"Sometimes, your old high school mentality comes back to haunt you," said Monica Saumoy, recalling the cutthroat competition to get the grades she needed to get into Princeton.

Previously, there was no official limit to the number of A's handed out, and nearly half the grades in an average Princeton class have been A-pluses, A's or A-minuses. Now, each department can give A's to no more than 35 percent of its students each semester.

Princeton's effort is being monitored closely by other hallowed halls, and some expect to see a ripple effect in coming years.

No homes on this range

ND BERTHOLD — The grasslands, tree groves and wetlands, with signs warning hunters to keep out, mark a stretch of rolling prairie near here as a haven for wildlife.

Court documents mark it as something else: the focus of a battle over a North Dakota law that conservationists say is unmatched in the nation.

The 1985 law requires land buyers to submit their plans to a public review board, and gives the governor final authority to approve or reject any purchases.

Farm groups and county officials who support the measure say it helps ensure that farmland will not be lost. Conservationists and other critics say it hampers their work and keeps new groups from operating in North Dakota.

But no one had tried to challenge the law until this year, when James Cook, of Eden Prairie, Minn., refused to back down from his purchase of more than 1,400 acres for use as protected wildlife habitat.

Flood wall not needed

PA DANVILLE — Although construction of flood walls often force communities downstream to raise their own flood walls, a proposed flood control project in Bloomsburg should not have that effect on Danville, a federal official said.

"Our analysis shows that river surface elevations along the river are the same with the project or without the project," said Mary Dan, project manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"There shouldn't be any changes downstream."

A flood wall keeps water in a river that otherwise would flood a community. In doing so, it sends more water downstream. But the Corps of Engineers used sophisticated computer models of the North Branch of the Susquehanna River to determine that Danville will not have to raise its walls, authorities said.

Wide open spaces

ID BOISE — A legislative panel unanimously agreed to consider expanding Statehouse facilities with 800 new square feet in a building across the street from the Capitol. The current Statehouse needs about \$80 million in repairs for electrical, plumbing and other mechanical problems.

Man sues for lost time

FL PORT ST. JOHN — A man sued after serving 22 years behind bars for a rape he didn't commit plans to ask the state legislature for about \$4.9 million in compensation — and is getting some high-powered help with his request.

Wilton A. Dedge, 43, was freed after DNA evidence exonerated him Aug. 12 in the 1981 rape of a 17-year-old girl. He left with a few possessions in a plastic bag, but without a bus ticket or the \$100 the state gives to most freed convicts.

Now, Dedge and his attorneys are asking legislators to pass a special claims bill worth about \$4.9 million in compensation for lost wages, wrongful imprisonment and costs incurred by his family and lawyers. Dedge was convicted in 1982, and again in 1984 on a retrial.

"How can you put a number on it?" Dedge asked. "There's no right number. I would rather have the time back."

Dedge's team used three expert economists to come up with figures for lost wages and earning potential.

Stories and photos from wire services

OPINION

How far are we willing to push prisoners?

The Dallas Morning News

"I have neither the time nor the inclination to explain myself to a man who rises and sleeps under the blanket of the very freedom I provide, then questions the manner in which I provide it!"

—Col. Nathan Jessep, "A Few Good Men" the famous courtroom outburst from Jack Nicholson in the film "A Few Good Men" is a classic defense of "ends-justify-the-means" morality. The fictional Jessep, on military trial for complicity in a soldier's beating death, argues that the society that counts on the security he provides had better take care in judging him.

We were thinking about Col. Jessep in the wake of the conviction of Spc. Charles Graner, recently found guilty of abusing prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison and sentenced to 10 years behind bars. The verdict was just, the punishment condign, and thus, many of us may think this puts the question of U.S. abuse and torture of detainees to rest.

Wrong. We have not begun to scapegoat Spc. Graner. There are far too many questions left unanswered about U.S. policy on physical abuse of these prisoners. There are reams of documents—official investigations, a Red Cross report, internal government papers made public thanks to an

American Civil Liberties Union lawsuit—showing that cruel and inhumane treatment of prisoners was more widespread than initially believed.

We know now that some detainees were beaten, some were raped, some burned, choked, urinated on, forced to face mock execution, shocked with electricity, sodomized with a police stick, sexually humiliated... the list goes on.

We know, too, that the White House adopted what might charitably be called an expansive view of the limits of physical coercion. President Bush has said that he does not condone torture, but much depends on the definition of the word. When does necessary roughness become torture—and do our interrogators know and respect the distinction? More important: Does it matter to the American people that they do?

If not, then Col. Jessep is right, and there is no moral limit to what might be done to human beings in the name of security. So much for the sanctity of moral values.

In the film, Nathan Jessep goes down, because our sense of justice does not grant the right to do lawless evil so that good might come of it. If that's what Americans really believe, and not just Hollywood make-believe, we are shamefully reticent to show our troubled consciences.



Comment compromised if conflicts not of interest

BY EDWARD WASSERMAN

The affair of Armstrong Williams, the columnist and TV commentator who secretly took \$240,000 to shift for Bush administration education policy, came and went with blinding speed.

Not only was the furor brief and short, but it focused on the case's most unusual elements—that it involved a black conservative, an explicit payoff, public money and straight-up propaganda. As The New York Times framed the issue:

"The disclosure of the payments intensified a debate over the prevalence of political opinion masked as editorial content in the paid public communications of the Bush administration."

That's one way of looking at it. The far bigger issue, and one reason why the matter got so little attention, is that Williams' sin exemplifies a corruption that is all but routine in the arena of opinion and commentary: Somebody's bankrolling all of these supposedly independent voices, and we rarely know who.

Of the numerous articles I read on the case only a column by Chris Baker, in The Washington Times, hinted at the perils. "One of the dirty secrets of television news is that the producers who book pundits such as Armstrong Williams on their programs rarely ask the commentators about potential conflicts of interest."

It isn't just a lot worse than that, and it isn't just TV.

At times, the commentary arena is little better than an ethical brothel.

Reporters face mounting demands to come clean on entanglements, but TV's shouting heads and the outside columnists who fill newspaper op-ed pages face no such clamor.

Freelance a travel article to a reputable newspaper, as a veteran political consultant told me, and you must swear you didn't get as much as a free Coke from the hotels you mention. But write a fierce opinion piece about some public policy—with vast consequences at stake—and nobody asks whether you have a client involved.

As readers, we don't notice. We read the op-ed column or watch the guest commentator, and we're reassured to learn the pundit is an expert in arms control or health-care policy, or is an ex-deputy assistant undersecretary, or a scholar-in-residence at some institute, or co-author of some largely unsold book. And it's true, but it tells us nothing. We still have not a clue as to whom this person works for—and whether those learned observations were delivered pursuant to an arrangement with an undisclosed paymaster.

Even formal affiliations may be just protective cover. The writer who's a "fellow" of that high-sounding think tank may be financially beholden to a benefactor hidden behind the institutional curtain.

After the Williams affair broke, Judith Phair, head of the Public Relations Society of America, wrote on the organization's Web site that its Code of Ethics requires professionals to "fully disclose sponsors or financial interests involved in any paid communications activities."

It's a commendable statement. But political consulting deals—whether large federal corporate PR, lobbying or grass-roots—do routinely obligate consultants to make sure that sympathetic commentaries are placed on respectable media outlets. (It's not unheard-of for the writing to be arranged anonymously well before the prestigious author's byline is rented.) This is never disclosed.

Some say that the rules are different for pundits. Williams—who has insisted he said nothing he didn't believe—claimed initially that because he was a commentator, not a journalist, he could keep the payments secret. In an inter-

view, President Bush, whose appointees were Williams' bagmen, observed, "There needs to be a clear distinction between journalism and advocacy"—a puzzling remark. Did he mean money paid under-the-table to commentators precisely because the public thinks they're independent isn't deceitful? Of course it is.

There is such a thing as principled advocacy. And there is honest commentary based on disinterested judgments and driven by conviction, not cash. What the Williams affair dramatizes is a regrettable institutional laxness from which the marketplace of opinion now suffers.

It's not hard to insist that pundits disclose conflicts and commitments, to insist that bylined authors actually do their own writing and that basic standards of honest discourse apply.

And the beleaguered mainstream media would do well to set such standards now. Because with the jubilation of punditry on the Internet, it's hard to see where else such standards would be set.

Edward Wasserman is Knight professor of journalism ethics at Washington State University in Pullman, Va. He wrote this column for The Miami Herald.

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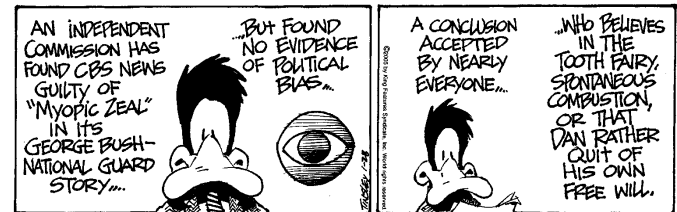
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Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Horoscope

Mars and Pluto buddy up for some cosmic rock 'n' roll. Areas of life that have suffered from a lack of confrontation now receive due attention—not to mention a fierce attitude. It doesn't always take a revolution to change someone's mind or to handle a squirrely situation, but if revolt seems necessary, many people are willing to go to it.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(January 28). This year features your sensational rise to a position you've had your eye on for several years now. You're going about business in a more politically savvy manner and therefore find yourself in favor with fellow diplomats. A well-constructed financial plan is your ticket to higher earnings. Make your romantic feelings known in May.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

You're inventive and sharp. But be careful not to overdo things. It's the simple idea that takes off like a rocket. A Gemini or Sagittarius will help you fulfill a tall order in the easiest possible manner.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

Your mind needs some extra help in getting going. Confused emotions could be putting a damper on your synapses. Deep breathing helps. The more you read, the better you think.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

Listen: The faint echoes of 1,000 violins play in the distance. Why do people tug on your heartstrings so? Perhaps because you are easily swayed by stories of an unhappy childhood.

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

Just because you've been unaware of a trend thus far doesn't mean the trend doesn't exist. Look for possible patterns in your relationships. Discovering a self-perpetuated cycle could set you free.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

You'll hear some pretty silly excuses as to why someone didn't come through

for you. But you'll probably be too busy accepting the gracious generosity from other people to care! A Libra flirts with you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

Fighting for someone else's rights brings out the warrior in you. "No" is not an option, and you're willing to make a scene if that's what it takes. You're now the sign most likely to be called to jury duty.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

The rules are simple now, so follow them instead of looking for deeper explanations. Be wary of people who need to dominate the conversation. If you take the relationship further, they may bully you in other ways.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

Exterior influences promise to soothe and calm you. They can't take the place of internal satisfaction, though. You are quite susceptible to advertising, so be careful not to fall into a consumer vortex.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

The energy of love is always there; we need only be open to it. Reaching out to friends, however small the gesture, will bring about a generally uniting energy. Feelings of isolation melt away.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

Defenses are there for a reason, right? Without them, wouldn't you crumble? Maybe not. It's more likely that you're holding onto a certain coping mechanism out of habit. Let go, and you'll become invulnerable.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

Wisdom comes from the mouths of babes—or at least from the mouth of someone you formerly didn't consider wise. You'll recognize the rightness of a statement and be utterly shocked.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

You hurt yourself into the pool of life without concern for safety or liability—which is just as it should be! Your cannonball style looks like so much fun to everyone else that you'll soon attract a crowd of wannabe revolvers.

Creators Syndicate

Holiday Mathis



Calvin and Hobbes



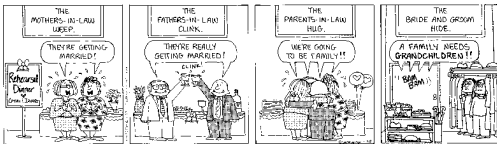
Jump Start



Zits



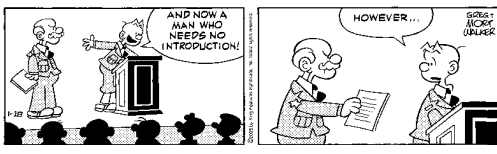
Cathy



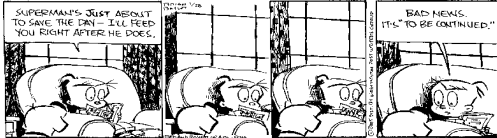
Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red Rover



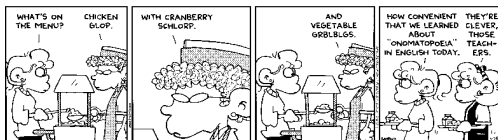
Better or Worse



Peanuts



Forkrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



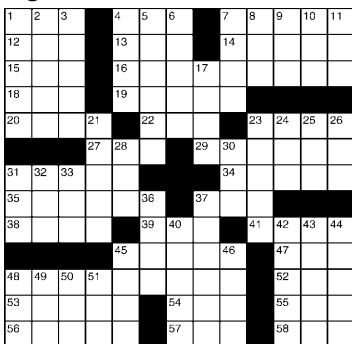
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Stern disciplinarian?
- 4 Prohibit
- 7 Settle a debt
- 12 "Eureka!"
- 13 Shock's partner
- 14 Quilliterate
- 15 Baksheesh
- 16 Filled to the brim
- 18 Milwaukee product
- 19 Andrea Bocelli renditions
- 20 100 centesimi
- 22 Cill quintupled
- 23 Broadway debacle
- 27 Pump purchase
- 29 Ass or zebra
- 31 Duck
- 34 Hypnotized
- 35 Script text
- 37 Recyclable item

Down

- 1 "Attraction"
- 2 Tex-Mex treat
- 3 Artie
- 4 Mexican peninsula, for short
- 5 Edgar and Hugo
- 6 Altered recording
- 7 Look-alikes, idiomatically
- 8 Curve
- 9 Tie up the phone
- 10 Handle
- 11 — XING (road sign)
- 12 Macadamize
- 21 Nimble
- 23 Laugh-provoking
- 24 Cover
- 25 Indivisible
- 26 Apiece

- 28 Commotion
- 30 Sine-non link
- 31 Toss in
- 32 Through
- 33 Galley implement
- 36 Seles competitor
- 37 Swindle
- 40 Tolerate
- 42 Surround closely
- 43 With festivity
- 44 Folklore figure
- 45 Stevenson villain
- 46 People in general
- 48 Leprechaun's dance
- 49 Prior night
- 50 Torched
- 51 Moon vehicle

Answer to Previous Puzzle



I-28

CRYPTOQUIP

H YCDHY AHSZEL MHT
 AMJT VCAAC JL JAT
 HOSZEAJTZVZLAT: "AMJETA
 DCVZ, AMJETA TZESZO."
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHICH PROMINENT
 SWORDSMEN SHOULD DWELL IN OMAN'S
 CAPITAL? THE THREE MUSCAT-EERS!
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals H

Report online predator promptly

Dear Abby: My brother recently discovered that his 16-year-old stepdaughter has been chatting online with a man in another state, up to and including phone sex. He went into her e-mail without her permission to see what was going on after she ran up a \$300 phone bill.

When he confronted her about the bill, she cried and said she had been talking to a girl-friend. Her mother — my brother's wife — thinks her daughter would never do anything wrong and gets mad at my brother if he implies otherwise. He doesn't want to do anything about the situation for fear of her wrath.

I say, the girl's safety is more important than a fight with his wife. Do you know if there's a task force that he could e-mail this information to and remain anonymous? I would like to see that man caught before something horrible happens to this beautiful young girl.

— Protective in Colorado

Dear Abby



Dear Protective: The girl has been victimized by a predator. Your brother's wife is doing her daughter no good by behaving like an ostrich and pretending this incident never happened.

There are several things your brother can do. He should contact his local FBI office and/or visit the Web site www.fbi.gov and check out the area devoted to cyber crimes — specifically crimes against children under "What We Investigate." If he is referred to his local police department, he should contact them immediately so they can investigate further. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children also has an informative Web site, www.missingkids.com, which provides information regarding exploited children and an opportunity to report it.

Dear Abby: I am a single woman, and while I have kissed a

lot of men, only a few were great kisses. You don't want to give up on a great guy because his kiss is only average. I gently tried to provide a bit of coaching with an ex, but it made him defensive.

How do you teach a middle-aged man to kiss? Before I get into another relationship, a little advice in this area would be helpful. Also, would you approach it early on — or after there is an established relationship?

— **Wants a Great Kiss**

Dear Wants: Since different people are turned on by different things, no one should expect to get it right on the first try. A considerate kisser wants to please.

The best way I know of to "teach" a middle-aged man to kiss — or a young one or an old one, for that matter — is to demonstrate, demonstrate. Practice makes perfect, and the time to approach it is soon after he makes his next attempt.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.ueexpress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CINEW	□ □ □ □ □
DEGEH	□ □ □ □ □
URKEEB	□ □ □ □ □
REECCO	□ □ □ □ □

Print answer here:

Yesterday's	Jumbles:	LEGAL	PAGAN	INLAID	AERATE
Answer:		The bathed friends had a difficult time doing this — "PARTING"			

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Arington



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

(Answers tomorrow)

Spouse should check out vasectomy

Dear Annie: I am a 36-year-old mother of two. After our first child was born, I suffered four miscarriages, two of which required a D&C which created adhesions from scar tissue. I underwent two hysteroscopies and an emergency laparoscopy. After all this, we were able to have a second child, delivered via C-section. But I then had another miscarriage and decided enough was enough. I don't want to get pregnant again.

I would like my husband to have a vasectomy, but he refuses. Our current form of birth control is the withdrawal method, which isn't much fun, not to mention it's not the most effective. Frankly, I've been poked and prodded and, I don't want to undergo more surgery for a tubal ligation. Birth control pills are not an option, and I have an allergy to latex, so condoms are out. It's cheaper for my husband to have a vasectomy, and the recov-

Annie's Mailbox



ery time is fairly quick. A tubal would require a month off work without pay, not to mention the increased risks and chance of infection.

My mother-in-law has her boy convinced he'll suffer lifelong urinary infections if he undergoes a vasectomy. I think my husband believes he'll be somehow less of a man, so he is dead-set against it.

— **Southwest Sufferer**

Dear Southwest: It doesn't say much about your husband's character that he would put his macho pride above your health. We won't even get into his intrusive mother, who has no business being part of this decision.

For the record, vasectomies are quite safe and have absolutely no effect on a man's sexual drive or masculinity. If your husband is worried about surgery, he can look into non-surgical options.

Dear Annie: For years, my husband and I have been helping our daughter and son-in-law by

taking care of their three children, whom we dearly love. When our daughter was working, she paid us a little, although it didn't cover the cost of the children's food or the gas to take them to and from school. Now that she is back in college, she says she can't pay us anything at all.

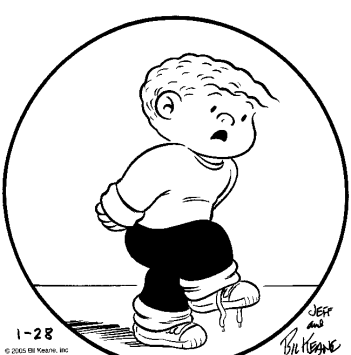
We have the grandkids every day. At dinner, their parents stop by to eat with us. Money that we hoped to have for our golden years is dwindling away. How do we tell our daughter she needs to help us with the cost of caring for her children, or she needs to take care of them herself?

— **Almost Broke Grandma**

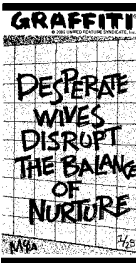
Dear Grandma: You tell her in plain English. She is taking advantage of you because you permit it. Inform your daughter that she needs to find other arrangements, because you no longer have the time or money to raise her children. It's her turn.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sauer, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annie@mailbox.comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

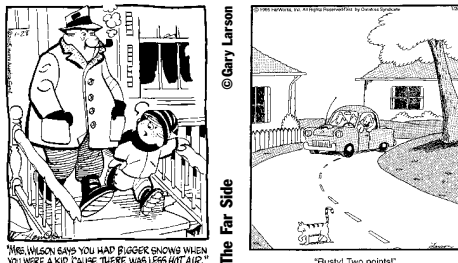
Family Circus



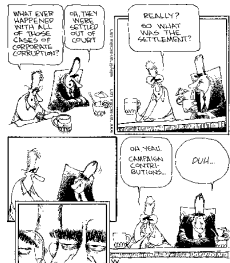
"Oh, no! I lost my knot!"



Dennis the Menace



Non Sequitur



Roddick-Hewitt showdown on tap

Men's top four seeds reach semifinals

BY PAUL ALEXANDER

The Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Andy Roddick had a much easier run to the Australian Open semifinals than he did two years ago, one that Lleyton Hewitt can only envy.

Averaging just 1½ hours per match, Roddick advanced Wednesday when Russia's Nikolay Davydenko experienced breathing problems for the second straight match and retired after trailing 6-3, 7-5, 4-1.

Roddick next faces Hewitt, a 6-3, 6-2, 1-6, 3-6, 10-8 winner over David Nalbandian in a 4-hour, 5-minute match with fireworks on and off the court.

The other semifinal has defending champion Roger Federer against Marat Safin in a rematch of last year's final. With No. 1 Federer, No. 2 Roddick, No. 3 Hewitt and No. 4 Safin still around, it's the first time since Wimbledon in 1995 that the four top-seeded men reached the semifinals in a Grand Slam.

Hewitt gave the home crowd plenty to cheer about in his gritty victory, with Australia Day fireworks going off near the arena in the third set.

"I just kept hanging in there," Hewitt said. "I had opportunities to break. I said 'Give it everything you've got.' In the end, it paid off once again."

Asked how he felt afterward, Hewitt joked, "I might go for a 10K run tomorrow."

The aggressive, intense Hewitt angered an opponent for the third time in four matches, brushing shoulders with Nalbandian as they passed during the crossover after Hewitt broke for a 3-2 lead in the second set. Nalbandian stared at Hewitt, who ran off the next three games.

Juan Ignacio Chela was fired for spitting in Hewitt's direction after the Australian cursed at him during their third-round match.

A round earlier, James Blake, clearly upset at Hewitt's antics to fire up himself and the crowd, mocked Hewitt's trademark shout of "Come on!" while pointing his fingers at his forehead.

Nalbandian came back to win the third set, yielding only four points in Hewitt's three service games, then leveled the match with two breaks in the fourth set.

It turned into a contentious battle of survival as both men, disputing a number of line calls, received treatment before the fifth set. Hewitt, already nursing a sore right thigh, had a massage on the left one this time. Facing his 22nd set in five matches, speed over 17 hours, Nalbandian had a blister on his left foot.

Nalbandian had Hewitt constantly on the run with side-to-side groundstrokes and drop volleys that had him dashing to the net. But Hewitt again showed he deserves his reputation as an "Aussie battler," feed-



Third-seeded Lleyton Hewitt, above, needed 4 hours and 5 minutes to defeat David Nalbandian 6-3, 6-2, 1-6, 3-6, 10-8 on Wednesday.

ing off the cheering, clapping, flag-waving fans.

Nalbandian, with his own fist pumps and shouts of "Vamos!" — "Let's Go!" — saved three break points while serving at 1-1 and another at 5-5. Hewitt finally broke through with a backhand half-volley down the line to pull ahead 9-8, then held for the match at love on a forehand winner. The final set took 141.

The 22-year-old Roddick reached the Australian Open semifinals in 2003, losing to Rainer Schüttler after he'd clinched a draining quarterfinal win over Morocco's Younes El Aynaoui with the longest fifth set in Grand Slam history at 21-19.

"It's been pretty smooth sailing so far," said Roddick, who has only dropped one set in five

matches. "That could end up being a good thing. I don't have many miles on me so far."

Davydenko complained of breathing problems just before finishing off a straight-sets quarterfinal victory. He called for the trainer in the second set after Roddick broke him for a 3-2 lead.

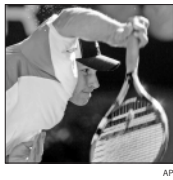
"We played a couple really long points and then he made a couple easy errors afterwards, after those long points," Roddick said. "When he called the trainer, I figured he had to be struggling a little bit, especially when I saw him with the inhaler. It looked pretty serious."

Davydenko recovered briefly, breaking back in the next game as Roddick committed his only two double-faults. But Davydenko was soon laboring again and finally retired after getting broken for the second time in the third set to trail 4-1. He received medical treatment for more than an hour after the match.

"It was very hot," Davydenko said. "I couldn't breathe. I cannot run, I cannot control the ball. I don't know what it is."

On the women's side, top-seeded Lindsay Davenport, healthy after a bout of bronchitis just before the Australian Open, ousted Olympic bronze medalist Alicia Molik, seeded 10th, 6-4, 4-6, 9-7.

She will face France's Nathalie Dechy, who reached a Grand Slam semifinal for the first time after failing to get past the fourth round in 36 previous majors.



Andy Roddick has lost only one set in five matches in Melbourne.

Australian Open

Wednesday
At Melbourne Park
Melbourne, Australia
Purse: \$14.5 million (Grand Slam)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Men's singles

Quarterfinals
Andy Roddick (2), United States, def. Nikolay Davydenko (28), Russia, 6-3, 7-5, 4-1, retired.

Lleyton Hewitt (3), Australia, def. David Nalbandian (9), Argentina, 6-3, 6-2, 1-6, 3-6, 10-8.

Women's quarterfinals
Lindsay Davenport (1), United States, def. Alicia Molik (10), Australia, 6-4, 4-6, 9-7.

Nathalie Dechy (19), France, def. Patty Schnyder (12), Switzerland, 5-7, 6-1, 7-5.

Men's doubles
Quarterfinals
Wayne Black and Kevin Ullyett (5), Zimbabwe, def. Mahesh Bhupathi, India, and Todd Woodbridge (3), Australia, 7-5 (3), 6-3.

Women's semifinals
Serena Williams, Russia, and Alicia Molik (6), Australia, def. Anastasia Myskina and Vera Zvonareva (7), Russia, 6-2, 6-3.

Lindsay Davenport and Corina Morariu (15), United States, def. Gabriela Navratilova and Michaela Pastikova, Czech Republic, 3-6, 6-2, 6-3.

Mixed
Second Round
Bob Bryan, United States, and Vera Zvonareva (3), Russia, def. Dmitriy Gromak, Czech Republic, and Katarina Srebotnik, Slovenia, 6-1, 6-2.

Quarterfinals
Andy Ram, Israel, and Corina Morariu, Spain, def. Daniel Nestor, Canada, and Rennae Stubbs (1), Australia, 7-5, 6-7 (3), 7-5 (2).

Craig Bradshaw and Samantha Stosur, Australia, def. Wayne Arthurs and Trudi Musgrave, Australia, 6-2, 7-6 (7).

Lleyton Hewitt (2), David Nalbandian (9), 6-3, 6-2, 1-6, 3-6, 10-8.

1st Serve Percentage 60 62
Aces 14 14
Double Faults 6 4

Unforced Errors 59 59
1st Serve Winning Pct. 73 71
2nd Serve Winning Pct. 61 61

Winners (inc. service) 49 36
Break Points 23-24 20-25
Net Points 15 15

Total Points Won 158 150
Time of Match 4:50 2:23
Lindsay Davenport (1) def. Alicia Molik (10), 6-4, 4-6, 9-7.

1st Serve Percentage 60 62
Aces 14 14
Double Faults 6 4

Unforced Errors 59 59
1st Serve Winning Pct. 73 71
2nd Serve Winning Pct. 61 61

Winners (inc. service) 49 36
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2nd Serve Winning Pct. 61 61

Winners (inc. service) 49 36
Break Points 23-24 20-25
Net Points 15 15

Total Points Won 158 150
Time of Match 4:50 2:23
Thursday's featured matches:
Maria Sharapova (4), Russia, vs. Serena Williams (7), United States.

Lindsay Davenport (1), United States, vs. Nathalie Dechy (19), France.

Roger Federer (3), Switzerland, vs. Marat Safin (4), Russia.

Dechy, seeded 19th, ousted No. 12 Patty Schnyder 5-7, 6-1, 7-5.

While the two women's quarterfinals lasted exactly the same time — 2:33 — Davenport headed back out to advance to the doubles finals with Corina Morariu in a three-set victory that took another 1:44. She said she never considered defaulting to improve her singles prospects.

"It's my partner's birthday," Davenport said between matches. "And I feel fine."

She has only about 20 hours to recover, taking the court after fourth-seeded Maria Sharapova and No. 7 Serena Williams meet in a rematch of last year's Wimbledon final, in which the 17-year-old Sharapova won her first Grand Slam title.

"It's tough to come back again tomorrow," Davenport said.



Australian Open

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Kansas' Wayne Simien (23) celebrates with Sasha Kaun (24) and Michael Lee during the final minute of the Jayhawks' 86-66 win over Baylor.

Refocused Kansas sprints past Baylor

The Associated Press

WACO, Texas — While no longer undefeated, No. 6 Kansas stayed perfect in the Big 12 with a record-breaking game.

The Jayhawks put a surprising loss to Villanova behind them in a hurry.

Wayne Simien scored seven of his 18 points in a game-opening 15-2 run, and Kansas set a school record with 16 three-pointers in an 86-66 win over Baylor on Tuesday night.

"I visibly noticed a change in attitude," Kansas coach Bill Self said. "It was a refocused group. The winning to Villanova made this game a very big game, and I thought we came out and played accordingly."

The 83-62 loss at Villanova on Saturday knocked Kansas (15-1, 5-0) from the ranks of the undefeated. The misery of their trip got extended when they got stuck in Philadelphia an extra day because of the weekend blizzard that hit the Northeast.

Baylor (9-7, 1-4) never got closer than seven points after the opening spurt. And the Jayhawks kept taking advantage of a zone defense, first going inside. Simien and then outside for the long-range shots.

The middle of the zone was very vulnerable," Simien said. "Once we got the entry pass into there ... there were easy shots for the post guys and then the deep threats for our other guys."

Simien didn't attempt a three-pointer, but the four other Kansas players who scored in double figures made at least three three-pointers each.

Jeff Hawkins, trying to work his way back into the playing rotation, was 5-for-5 on threes for 15 points in just 13 minutes.

Hawkins was suspended from the team for unspecified rules violations during the offseason, then relegated to the end of the bench. The junior, who played in 31 games last season, had been on the bench just 13 minutes all season before playing 17 against Villanova.

"He's gone from not even being on the team, to serious minutes and making shots. That helps everybody," said Keith Langford, who scored 17 points.

"He's been in the doghouse a couple of months, but kept a good attitude," said Self, adding that Hawkins has earned the chance to play more.

J.R. Giddens added 14 points for Kansas, and Aaron Miles had 11.

Giddens hit a three-pointer with 5:28 left that made it 79-55. It was the 15th three for the Jayhawks, tying the school record set against North Carolina State in December 1994.

Langford hit the record 16th three with 1:45 left. The Jayhawks were 16-for-27 from beyond the arc.

"We probably put too much focus on guarding the high post and they exposed that weakness," said Baylor freshman guard Aaron Bruce, who had 23 points.

No. 7 Kentucky 84, Tennessee 62: Patrick Sparks scored 19 points for the visiting Wildcats (15-2, 6-0 Southeastern Conference), who lost senior forward Chuck Hayes, their second-leading scorer and top rebounder, to a broken nose in the first half.

Chris Lofton had 17 points for the Volunteers (10-9, 3-3).

No. 16 Texas 80, Texas Tech 73: Freshman Daniel Gibson was 6-for-6 from three-point range and scored 20 points for the Longhorns (15-4, 4-2 Big 12). They went 14-for-21 from three-point range and made at least 10 threes for the eighth time this season.

Ronald Ross scored 29 points for visiting Texas Tech (11-5, 3-2), which came in as the Big 12's top scoring team but shot just 37 percent.

No. 19 Connecticut 68, West Virginia 58: Rashad Anderson, not starting for the first time this season, scored 16 of his 22 points in the second half to lead the Huskies (12-4, 4-2 Big East), who had a 47-27 rebound advantage.

Connecticut played in Morgantown for the first time since 1999. Tyrone Solly scored 16 points for the Mountaineers (11-6, 1-5), who lost their fifth straight.

Dissenter explains Duke vote

BY DAVID HAUGH

Chicago Tribune

MADISON, Wis. — Sportswriter Austin Bishop got home Monday night from his job at the Neosho Democrat newspaper in Philadelphia, Miss., and called his teenage son into the living room.

Griming, he showed the boy the latest Associated Press college basketball poll in which 71 of 72 national media voters ranked Illinois the best team in America. A lone dissenter put Duke atop his ballot, preventing the Illini from becoming the first unanimous No. 1 team since the Blue Devils in 2001-2002.

"I told my son, 'Bradley, I think Daddy's going to be in the news this week,'" Bishop said on the phone Tuesday.

Daddy voted for Duke. "Bradley said to me, 'Daddy, you were the only one? Why?' Bishop recalled.

That might be a question bandied about on the Illinois bandwagon, getting more crowded after the Illini broke Wisconsin's 38-game home winning streak Tuesday night with a 75-65 comeback victory over the Badgers at the Kohl Center.

Bishop watched from home. Tabbed to vote in the poll for the first time after 27 years in the business, he had ranked the Illini 1-1 since their victory over Wake Forest on Dec. 1. But after seeing Illinois struggle last Thursday to a 73-68 overtime victory

over Iowa and Duke rout Florida State 88-56, he followed his conscience right down Tobacco Road.

"I weighed the conferences, and I just think what Duke is doing is in the ACC is slightly more impressive than what Illinois is doing against Big Ten competition," said Bishop, who covers Mississippi State and the Southeastern Conference for the Democrat, a 17,000-circulation newspaper in east-central Mississippi.

The state's only AP voter, Bishop has seen Illinois play five times on television. He follows the same routine and rationale before voting every Sunday. He prints out the week's results from Top 25 teams, goes to church, comes home and waits until the last game finishes before filing out his poll.

"I think it's a voter's job to re-evaluate his vote every week," said Bishop, 46. "I don't like the way a lot of guys vote, like they're invincible and their 1-2-3 teams can't change week to week. It should be like March Madness every week. Things can change."

They likely will after Illinois' 20th victory in a setting that, since December 2002, had been even more inhospitable to visitors than Duke's Cameron Indoor Stadium. Bishop conceded a victory over Wisconsin and subsequent victory over Minnesota on Saturday would vault Illinois back atop of Duke on his next ballot.

"Frankly, that's what I'd probably do, especially if Duke strug-

gles," Bishop said. "It's a different week."

He takes an open mind to the polls. Four weeks ago, for example, Bishop did not even include unbeaten Boston College in the Top 25.

This week, he nudged the 16-0 Eagles up to third.

"I was not trying to be controversial," Bishop said. "If my vote was off the wall and I had ranked Mississippi State or someone like that No. 1, I could see how people would be upset."

As of Tuesday night, Bishop had yet to be buried in an avalanche of insults from Illini Nation, but kidded he would prefer keeping his e-mail address and office phone number out of the Chicago papers. He expected to hear more from Mississippi State fans angry with him for dropping their favorite team to No. 24.

"There's nothing I don't like about Illinois," he said. "I'm very intrigued by their team and they're just as deserving as Duke. ... But you can't vote for No. 1 and No. 1-A."

Only one other time since he started in the business could Bishop recall having to defend his logic publicly. That came at the beginning of his career when Bishop listed former Bears and Georgia kicker Kevin Butler third on his Heisman Trophy ballot.

"That was maybe a little out there," he said, chuckling. "But I don't want people up there to think I did not put a lot of thought into this. I really did."

Home: Badgers fade down the stretch

HOME, FROM BACK PAGE

"We picked it up defensively," Weber said. "I'm not sure if they got a little stagnant or tight as it got down the stretch or if we just defended well."

Devon Williams added 13 points and Roger Powell Jr. had 11 for Illinois, which led 35-33 at halftime despite going scoreless over the final 4:26 before the break.

"We've had a lot of good wins, Wake Forest, Gonzaga," Williams said. "But with this streak that they had here and the history of the building, this is tops right now."

Sharif Chambliss added 14 points for Wisconsin and Mike Henson scored 13.

The Badgers were just 5-for-12 from the free throw line, and Illinois was 17-for-20.

Wisconsin's average margin of victory during its winning streak was 20.4 points and it appeared for a moment that this one might be another Badgers' blowout when Tucker's three-pointer gave Wisconsin a 56-48 lead with 12:40 remaining.

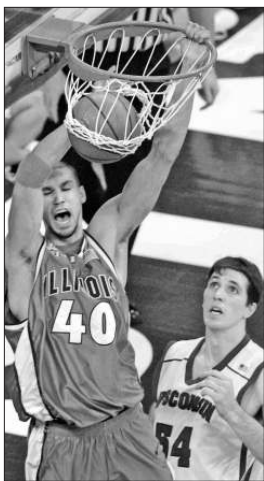
After an Illinois timeout, the Badgers had a chance to go up by double digits — the most the Illini had trailed this season was by nine at Purdue on Jan. 8 — but Andreas Helmigk trampled, and the Badgers unraveled.

Rich McBride's three-pointer was followed by two free throws from Williams and two more from Head. After Taylor's basket gave the Badgers a 55-52 lead, Ingram hit successive three-pointers: 13:32 run and gave the Illini a 61-58 lead.

"This is a great moment," Weber said. "They're enjoying it in the locker room. This is the most excited they have been all year, even more than they were at [then-No. 1] Wake Forest. They are truly proud of themselves. They really wanted to come in here and break the streak."

Wilkinson, who played in all 38 straight home-court victories, said the Badgers won't sulk about the end of the streak.

"It's over," he said. "We've got to move on."



Illinois' James Augustine dunks in front of Wisconsin's Mike Wilkinson in the second half Tuesday night in Madison, Wis. Illinois won 75-65.

Baltimore RB Lewis sentenced to 4 months

BY HARRY R. WEBER

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Baltimore Ravens running back Jamal Lewis was sentenced to four months in prison Wednesday for using a cell phone to try to set up a drug deal about 4½ years ago.

The sentence issued in federal court was what Lewis expected under an agreement reached with prosecutors in October.

Lewis, who tried to set up the deal a few months after he was the No. 5 overall pick in the 2000 NFL Draft, also will spend two months in a halfway house and perform 500 hours of community service following his prison term.

Prosecutors agreed to drop more serious drug conspiracy and attempted cocaine possession charges.

"I'm truly sorry for what I did," Lewis said to U.S. District Judge Orinda Evans.

Explaining the short sentence, the judge said the government didn't have a strong case and noted the only witness against Lewis was an informant with a lengthy criminal record.

Evans said he was also giving Lewis "credit for stepping up to the bar" and admitting his guilt.

The football player has until Feb. 4 to surrender to allow him time to have a cast removed from his right ankle, the judge said.

Lewis recently had surgery on the foot. Evans said he will recommend that Lewis serve his incarceration at a federal prison camp at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Ala. The community confinement will be served at a halfway house in Atlanta.

Defense lawyer Ed Garland said the sentence was fair and allows for Lewis to return to the Ravens next season.

"Jamal Lewis has his life and his career back," Garland told reporters outside court.

Lewis was suspended for two games by the NFL after his guilty plea. The Ravens finished the season 9-7 and missed the playoffs.

Lewis, a former star at Tennessee, could have faced at least 10 years in prison if convicted of the conspiracy charge, but likely would have received a shorter sentence under federal guidelines. In 1997, he pleaded guilty to a shoplifting charge in suburban Atlanta but officials pressed to wipe his record clean if he complied with his probation.

In the drug case, Lewis was accused of helping broker a cocaine deal for childhood friend Angelo Jackson during conversations with a government informant in Atlanta.

On June 23, 2000 — Lewis had been drafted by the Ravens on April 15 — the FBI said an informant contacted Lewis on his cell phone to discuss selling cocaine to Lewis and Jackson. The FBI said Lewis and Jackson later met the informant at an Atlanta restaurant. Both conversations were taped.

Eagles trainer: Owens might play

Doctor won't clear Philly receiver, who will continue rehab anyway

BY ROB MAADDI

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Terrell Owens is treating his doctor's orders the way he deals with pesky cornerbacks: shrugging them off and forging ahead.

Philadelphia Eagles head trainer Rick Burkholder said Wednesday that Owens started jogging and plans to continue rehabbing his injured ankle in an attempt to play in the Super Bowl.

Dr. Mark Myerson, the surgeon who operated on the All-Pro receiver in December, said Tuesday he would not clear Owens to suit up against the New England Patriots on Feb. 6.

"We understand Dr. Myerson's point of view. It's just that our risk-reward is different than his risk-reward," Burkholder said.

"He has great risk in clearing Terrell to play and no reward. We think there's some risk and we think there's great reward, so right now we're going to progress with his rehab."

The final decision on Owens' status will come down to the player, coach Andy Reid and the team's medical staff.

"We're never going to put Terrell at risk," Reid said.

Owens was at the Eagles' practice facility for rehab work Wednesday, but the team said he wouldn't be made available to reporters until next week's mandatory minicamp in the Super Bowl.

On Monday, before hearing Myerson's bad news, Owens said: "Specially I haven't seen him and I believe that I'll be out there on that field Sunday, regardless of what anybody says."



Eagles wide receiver Terrell Owens urges fans to cheer at the 76ers game on Monday. Owens wasn't as happy on Tuesday when his doctor said he shouldn't play in the Super Bowl on Feb. 6.

Myerson inserted two screws in Owens' right ankle and a plate on the outside of the ankle three days after he was injured against Dallas on Dec. 19. By not clearing Owens to play, Myerson should be absolved of any blame if

Owens goes against his wishes and winds up re-injuring the ankle.

Owens was told after surgery that he had only an outside chance of returning for the Super Bowl, which was 6½ weeks away

at the time. But he rehabbed vigorously, hoping to help Philadelphia win its first NFL championship since 1960.

After a checkup Tuesday in Baltimore, Myerson said that while he's pleased with Owens' recuperation, the operation requires a recovery period of eight to 10 weeks. Myerson added that any attempt to accelerate the rehabilitation process poses the same risk for injury.

Burkholder said Owens worked out on a treadmill when he returned to Philadelphia on Tuesday.

"We will continue to see whether he can jog and see how he does day in and day out, see if he can change direction," Burkholder said. "If he passes all those tests, then we'll start talking about practice time. Right now, the game isn't even in our vision right now. If he has any setbacks in his rehab, then the whole idea of playing in the Super Bowl is probably off."

In his first season with the Eagles after eight years in San Francisco, Owens led Philadelphia with 77 catches for 1,200 yards and 14 TDs.

Quarterback Donovan McNabb and other Eagles have said they don't need Owens to beat the defending champion Patriots, who are 7-point favorites.

"I'd to play," an added bonus," McNabb said. "If he doesn't, it's not going to stop anything we're doing. You have to have the best person you can about your future, so that's a tough call. That's something as a player you have to think about."

Steelers coach says QB didn't play with brokentoed

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Rookie quarterback Ben Roethlisberger was exaggerating when he said he broke two toes on his right foot during the AFC championship game, Pittsburgh Steelers coach Bill Cowher said Wednesday.

Roethlisberger told reporters Tuesday he wore down physically during the season and the two toes were scrambling late in the first half of the 41-27 loss to the New England Patriots.

Cowher seemed irritated Roethlisberger would go public with such a claim, that in effect, suggested the Steelers gambled with the NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year's health by playing him when he was hurt.

"We are unaware of any problems with his toes, OK?" Cowher said.

Roethlisberger didn't specify which toes were broken and wasn't walking with an apparent limp Monday or Tuesday.

"Ben doesn't have broken toes," Cowher said, talking publicly for the first time since Sunday night, when the Steelers lost an AFC title game for the fourth time in 11 seasons. "At the end of the first half, while scrambling, he aggravated some toes he has broken in the past, in high school and college. He mentioned some-

thing to Ryan Grove, our assistant trainer, and said he may have broke his toe.

When he came off, he said he was fine, and he went back out in the second half and didn't say anything to anybody else for the rest of the game."

Cowher said the injury was never mentioned during his meeting with Roethlisberger on Monday and nothing showed up during the rookie's physical exam Tuesday.

"I talked to Ben last night, and got it straight from his mouth, and that's that," Cowher said.

St: Brady was bed-ridden night before game

FOXBORO, Mass. — New England quarterback Tom Brady had a 103 degree fever the night before the Patriots beat the Pittsburgh Steelers in the AFC championship game, Sports Illustrated reported.

The magazine said in this week's issue that Brady had an intravenous line in his left — not throwing — arm on Saturday night while fighting off chills in his Pittsburgh hotel room.

Patriots spokesman Stacy James did not immediately re-

turn a phone call seeking comment.

Steelers' A. Smith, M. Smith among Pro Bowl replacements

PITTSBURGH — Pittsburgh Steelers defensive end Aaron Smith and offensive tackle Marvel Smith were added to the AFC Pro Bowl team Wednesday to replace injured players.

Aaron Smith replaces Jets defensive end John Abraham (knee), and Marvel Smith replaces Chiefs offensive tackle Willie Roaf (ankle).

Miami Dolphins cornerback Patrick Surtain also was added to the AFC Pro Bowl squad, replacing injured Baltimore Ravens cornerback Keith McAllister.

This is the third Pro Bowl selection for Surtain, who also was selected following the 2002 and 2003 seasons. McAllister will miss the game with a foot injury.

This season, Surtain was tied for the team lead with four interceptions, and helped lead the AFC's No. 1 pass defense. He was sixth on the team with 71 tackles.

The NFC added Atlanta Falcons return specialist Allen Rossum as an injury replacement for Detroit's Eddie Drummond.

Drummond will miss the game with a shoulder injury.

Rossum finished second in the

NFL with an average of 12.4 yards a punt return, and set team records with 1,250 yards in kickoff returns and 457 yards in punt returns.

Former presidents Clinton, Bush to attend Super Bowl

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Former president Bill Clinton and George Bush will attend Super Bowl XXXIX and make another plea for tsunami victims, the NFL announced Wednesday. The two former presidents will appear live on the Fox pregame show "to continue to raise awareness for tsunami relief and to thank the NFL and fans for their ongoing support," said league spokesman Brian McCarthy.

Both have appeared in television and radio commercials asking for donations to help victims of the Dec. 26 Southeast Asian tsunami.

Jags hire USC assistant

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The Jacksonville Jaguars hired Southern California quarterbacks coach Carl Smith as offensive coordinator Tuesday.

Smith replaced Mike Smith. Bill Musgrave, who was fired after the Jags finished last in the AFC and 29th in the league in scoring last season.

SPORTS

Addition of Delgado could give
Marlins chance to knock off
Braves in NL East, Page 27



Illini perfect home wreckers

Top-ranked team wins 20th game in row, ends Wisconsin's home string

BY ARNIE STAPLETON
The Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — One dazzling streak ended and another endured.

Top-ranked Illinois beat No. 18 Wisconsin 75-65 on Tuesday night, extending the nation's longest winning streak to 20 games and ending the nation's longest homecourt winning streak at 38.

Led by Luther Head's 18 points and reserve Jack Ingram's clutch play down the stretch, Illinois became the first team to beat the Badgers at the Kohl Center since Wake Forest on Dec. 4, 2002.

They did it by scoring 14 of the game's final 15 points after overcoming an eight-point deficit midway through the second half.

Illinois coach Bruce Weber, who had peddled his team as the underdog despite eight straight weeks atop the poll, said the biggest thing about the Illini's first win in Madison since 1998 was what it meant in the Big Ten race, where the Illini are 6-0.

"I told the kids if we win this one, we're going to be one up on everyone because I don't know if anyone's capable of coming in here and winning besides us after the Michigan State loss, so it gives us one up for the Big Ten championship," Weber said.

And that's what bothered the Badgers, who fell to 53-3 at home under Bo Ryan, who lost a Big Ten home game for the first time in his four seasons as coach.

"The guys weren't worried about losing any streak. It was a Big Ten conference game. That's all we were playing for," said Ryan, whose teams are 26-1 at home in the league since he took over in 2001.

The Badgers (13-4, 4-2) led 56-48 with 10½ minutes left and were still up by three with 4½ minutes remaining and the arena at its earsplitting best.

Sore-footed Alando Tucker, who led Wisconsin with 16 points, drove to the basket to give the Badgers a 64-61 with 4:31 left, but dreams of Wisconsin's first win over a top-ranked opponent since beating Ohio State in 1962 soon faded.

James Augustine, who was limited by foul trouble to 4 minutes in the first half, made two free throws with 4:11 left and Jack Ingram did the same at 3:39, putting the Illini ahead for good, 65-64.

Augustine, who scored 12 of his 14 points in the second half, added consecutive dunks to make it 69-64, the first one coming off a steal by Ingram.

The Badgers' most recent home win came when they scored the final 11 points of the game to beat Michigan State 62-59 but there was no such miracle in store for them this time.

The only break in Ingram's run came when Kamron Taylor made one free throw with 1:07 left to make it 71-65.

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Illinois' Jack Ingram (50) knocks the ball away from Wisconsin's Mike Wilkinson in the second half Tuesday night in Madison, Wis. Illinois won 75-65, ending Wisconsin's homecourt winning streak at 38 games.

**Hewitt pushes
his way past
Nalbandian
in four-hour,
five-set victory
in Australia;
Well-rested
Roddick is his
semifinal foe**

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**Owens says
he's through
cheerleading
despite doctor
saying he won't
give clearance
for Eagles
receiver to play
in Super Bowl**

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Suns, Sonics each put on a show from long range

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